

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Regular Meeting  
Manteca, California  
September 18, 2019**

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

Upon roll-call the following members were noted present or absent:

PRESENT: Tammy Alcantor, City of Escalon  
Robert Holmes, South San Joaquin Irrigation District  
Mike Weststeyn, South San Joaquin Irrigation District  
Leo Zuber, City of Ripon

ABSENT: Dave Kamper, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

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

**Public Comment** – None

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Item #1 - Consider Approval of the Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2019**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Zuber and seconded by Director Alcantor to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: ALCANTOR HOLMES WESTSTEYN ZUBER  
NOES: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE  
ABSENT: KAMPER

**Item #2 – Presentation of Financial Statement for July 2019**

Mr. Bere Lindley, SSJID Assistant General Manager, provided a year-to-date review of the SSJGSA financial statements, and was available for questions from the Board.

**Item #3 – Discussion on Proposed 2020 Budget**

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, addressed the Board regarding the financial structure of the SSJGSA in the upcoming year. He explained that when the SSJGSA becomes a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), as is intended, more stringent accounting will be required. In addition, when the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ESJGWA) adopts the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in January 2020, implementation of the plan will begin and there may be a financial contribution required from the SSJGSA to the ESJGWA for those costs. Additional expenditures will require discussions and may include legal, staffing, conference, or governance expenses.

Mr. Lindley reported that he and Mr. Nakagawa are currently working on the 2020 budget for the SSJGSA. Once the SSJGSA is established as a JPA, the JPA agreement, as currently written, will require the budget to be adopted by December 1 each year. In anticipation of the execution of the JPA agreement, staff will present the SSJGSA proposed 2020 budget to the Board at the October or November board meeting. Ms. Valerie Kincaid, Special SSJGSA Counsel, stated that this SSJGSA body can adopt the proposed 2020 budget without yet being established as a JPA.

Mr. Lindley explained that changes to the financial structure of the SSJGSA will include the JPA having its own checking account, and its member agencies receiving invoices quarterly per the JPA agreement. The quarterly invoices will reimburse the SSJGSA for costs of the preceding quarter. The JPA agreement provides that, upon the founding of the JPA, the members will be assessed an amount to provide sufficient working capital to cover costs until the first quarterly billing of the members. Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, said he will inquire with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on the requirements of official adoption as a JPA. He added that no changes will occur with this body or functions of this entity, though there will be changes to the agreement.

#### **Item #4 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Business, Including Groundwater Sustainability Plan Adoption and Implementation Activities**

Mr. Nakagawa provided an update of recent discussion and activity at the ESJGWA Advisory Committee (AC) meeting, which he and Chairman Holmes attended on September 11. The ESJGWA AC meeting topics included: 1) The ESJGWA Ad Hoc Committee; 2) The draft GSP public comment incorporation process; and, 3) The GSP adoption timeline and Notice of Intent.

1. The ESJGWA Ad Hoc Committee: This body was formed for the implementation process of the GSP regarding basin-wide issues including groundwater monitoring, water quality monitoring, and update of the GSP every five (5) years. Topic discussions at the ESJGWA Ad Hoc Committee meeting on September 16 included implementation, the estimated \$1 million annual cost for the basin-wide implementation of the GSP, funding, and cost allocation of the member agencies. A \$500k grant opportunity is available to the ESJGWA, with San Joaquin County (SJC) providing monies for the application fee from the SJC Water Investigation Zone 2 fund. Ms. Kincaid commented that the grant applicant should be the ESJGWA, as opposed to one member agency (i.e. San Joaquin County). Additional duties of the ESJGWA Ad Hoc Committee will include obtaining input from the ESJGWA member agencies regarding governance issues. Chairman Holmes and Mr. Nakagawa are members of the ESJGWA Ad Hoc Committee.

Chairman Holmes clarified that the estimated \$1 million annual budget for implementation will not include groundwater sustainability projects. There will be a need to distinguish the costs for operations, implementation, and projects. Discussion amongst the SSJGSA Board referenced Chapter 7 of the GSP, which further details implementation and costs, and recommends a “fixed equal cost” among member agencies. Also discussed was the possibility of a County-wide sales tax to fund implementation.

2. ESJGWA Public Comment Ad Hoc Committee: The ESJGWA Chair has also appointed a temporary Ad Hoc committee to review and summarize the draft GSP public comments and provide recommendations regarding responses and potential changes to the GSP. It shall be recommended to adopt a protocol requiring each GSA to forward any GSP comments it receives to the ESJGWA consultant within 3 business days of receipt. Also discussed were standardized response approaches

to comments given. Mr. Nakagawa noted that public comments were submitted from 19 entities. Mr. Nakagawa and Ms. Kincaid are members of the ESJGWA Public Comment Ad Hoc Committee.

3. GSP Adoption Timeline:

- July 10 to August 25 – Draft GSP public comment period
- August 16 – NOI to adopt GSP distributed
- November 5 – Final Draft GSP distributed
- November 13 – JPA recommendation to adopt
- November 15 to January 1, 2020 – Individual GSAs adopt Final Draft GSP
- November 20 – SSJGSA adoption of the GSP
- January 8 – JPA action to accept GSP
- January 31, 2020 – GSP submittal deadline to DWR

Mr. Nakagawa stated that, at the next SSJGSA Board meeting in October, he will provide updates on the ESJGWA Ad Hoc Committee activity; revisions to the GSP; and, the GSP budget. Mr. Nakagawa also offered to provide support to Ripon and Escalon to present to their respective Councils, if so desired. Chairman Holmes commended Mr. Nakagawa and Ms. Kincaid on their hard work and commitment to the SSJGSA in working with the ESJGWA and SGMA compliance.

**Item #5 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Conversion of SSJGSA into a Joint Powers Authority**

Mr. Nakagawa reported that a meeting with the SSJGSA member agencies was held today at 8:00 a.m., to review the draft JPA agreement. He thanked Director Tammy Alcantor, Escalon City Manager, and Mr. Kevin Werner, Ripon City Administrator, for their input and open discussion of the draft agreement. Mr. Rietkerk added that the outcome meeting resulted in no disagreements of the draft JPA agreement, though revised language will be forthcoming in the next draft version.

**Item #6 – Communications**

- a) **Staff and Consultant Updates**  
None
- b) **Technical Advisory Committee**  
None
- c) **Member Reports**  
None

**Item #7 – Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board