

Meeting Minutes

Regular Board of Directors Meeting Of the East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

August 25, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Held in person and via ZOOM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman Ward Burroughs called the meeting to order at 9:09a.m.

Board Members Present: Roll Call- Chairman, Ward Burroughs (Eastside Water District), Matt Beaman (Merced Irrigation District–Alternate), Christy McKinnon (Stanislaus County–Alternate), Dennis Yotsuya (Ballico Cortez Water District-Alternate), and Vice-Chair Dirk Ulrich (Ballico Cortez Water District-*Vice-Chair Ulrich did not vote. He listened to the meeting on-line*).

Board Members Absent: Vito Chiesa (Stanislaus County), Hicham El-Tal (Merced Irrigation District), and Lloyd Pareira (Merced County).

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Alternate Member Matt Beaman moved, seconded by Alternate Member Dennis Yotsuya to approve Consent Agenda, which included:

- a. Adopt Resolution AB 361 Brown Act Provisions extending remote meetings during Covid emergency.
- b. Action to approve minutes of the July 28, 2022 East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency board meeting.
- c. Action to approve transfer \$16,430 from the Prudent Reserve to pay the \$29,450 maximum share for the DWR Round 3 Grant application.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. TREASURY REPORT AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

Alternate Member Matt Beaman moved, seconded by Alternate Member Christy McKinnon to accept the Treasury Report and approve the payment of bills for August 2022. **The motion passed unanimously.**

5. GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM UPDATES

There was a brief update the monitoring wells, which included:

- a. Replacement Well #12 in Merced County is in line to be installed; and
- b. Staff is looking where data gaps are for the Round 3 grant application.

This item was information only.

6. POTENTIAL JOINT CONSULTANT CONTRACT CHANGES

- a. Alternate Member Matt Beaman, seconded by Alternate Member Christy McKinnon to approve West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency to enter into a contract with ESA Associates to complete the final PEIR. **The motion passed unanimously.** (Depending on grant allocation outcomes, there are scenarios that could result in the need for the ETS GSA to contribute an additional \$5,000 to \$20,000 to the joint consulting account if this contract is approved. Expenditures and allocations will be closely managed to eliminate or minimize this

potential outcome, and the Board will be asked for a separate authorization prior to allocation of any unbudgeted amounts.

- b. Alternate Member Matt Beaman moved, seconded by Alternate Member Dennis Yotsuya to authorize the reallocation of approximately \$6,000 remaining in the Todd Groundwater contract for finalization of the first Annual Report to On-Call/As-Needed Services. **The motion passed unanimously.**

7. **GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (GSP) IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING AND UPDATES**

Mike Tietze, GSA Coordinator gave an update on the following:

- a. Recommendations regarding the Contractor/Consultant Work Authorizations to complete groundwater monitoring related activities in Fiscal Year 2022-2023: Alternate Member Dennis Yotsuya with regret moved, seconded with regret by Alternate Member Matt Beaman to enter into a bridge contract with EPUR for an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for transition support and to send out a Request for Qualifications for Groundwater Monitoring related activities to at least three consultants. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- b. There was nothing new to report on proposed schedule for implementation of activities through January 2023. A schedule would be emailed to the board after the meeting.
- c. The Management Action Workshop on water use accounting and the use of ET Data is scheduled for October 18. Julianne Phillips is working on outreach. The agenda will include Baseline Analysis and Fee Options.
- d. There will be a regional meeting to discuss permitting process for vadose zone infiltration wells near the end of September. The meeting will include area GSAs with similar soil conditions. They will discuss technology, experience and need.
- e. Report on the Valley Water Collaborative Final Management Zone Draft Proposal for Domestic Wells. The Draft Proposal is available for public comment. Mike Tietze did not provide any comments.
- f. Regarding recommendations to comment on the State Water Resources Control Board's CEQA analysis Delta Salinity Objectives in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay; Merced Irrigation District is preparing a draft letter that the ETS GSA can utilize. Staff is looking for direction from the board for continued support.
- g. Sarah Woolf gave an update on the Upland Pipeline work. Provost and Pritchard has completed Phase 1 and Eastside Water District is waiting for the Final Report.
- h. Eastside Water District approved a contract with Wood Rodgers for Phase 1 of the Study of the Highline Canal regarding connections to utilize Replenishment Water when it becomes available. Work begins immediately.
- i. Julianne Phillips gave an update on outreach efforts which includes: a contact plan for the October workshop, developing a postcard with a QR Code. The postcard will be posted on the Merced County Farm Bureau's newsletter and having copies of the postcard available for handout at the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau. Julianne has investigated press releases and the cost of newspaper ads. She is also looking into steps for a video from the board chairman to be placed on the website.
- j. **Kelley Sterle, Environmental Science Associates, gave the board a briefing on the PEIR (Program Environmental Impact Report). Her briefing included: CEQA Background, Project Definition, Management Action Definition, Draft PEIR Scope, Environmental Analysis, Alternative Analysis, Next Steps in the CEQA Process and Draft PEIR Comments.**

This item information only.

8. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

- a. First, Mike Tietze gave Groundwater Model Updates, which included:
 - Discussed proposal for model updates with the WTS GSA staff. The consultant would be Woodward and Curran at a cost of approximately \$100,000.
 - WTS GSA envisions using the updated model for water allocations.
 - ETS GSA staff recommends evaluating and responding to this proposal over the next 3 months.
 - Staff recommends consulting with the ETS GSA and EWD legal teams regarding the allocation approach after the adoption of the Final legal rules, and determine the appropriate tools and approach for allocation calculations.

Then, Lauren Layne reported that she received edits last night from the West Turlock Subbasin Ground Water Sustainability Agency’s legal counsel on the proposed Water Accounting Framework. Therefore, a Special Board Meeting will have to be called to adopt the resolution accepting the proposed Water Accounting Framework.

This item was information only.

- b. Lauren Layne presented a Draft Amended and Restated Bylaws and Revisions to the Financial Policy for the board to review and possibly adopt at the September board meeting.
- c. Ms. Layne reported the legislature is back in session. AB2201, regarding the groundwater extraction permit has been amended.

9. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Board Members may provide a brief report on notable topics of interest. The Brown Act does not allow discussion or action by the Legislative Body.

Alternate Member Dennis Yotsuya wanted to make sure of his clarification that the consultant proposal for groundwater monitoring was sent to three companies.

10. CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – POTENTIAL LITIGATION

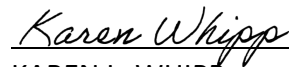
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9: (1 case). There was no closed session.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Ward Burroughs moved to adjourn the August 25, 2022 meeting at 11:28 a.m.

I hereby certify that this is a full and correct copy of the minutes of the Board of Directors of the East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency of Merced and Stanislaus Counties, California.

August 25, 2022



KAREN L. WHIPP

EAST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
BOARD SECRETARY