

Eastern Water Alliance (EWA)

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An Alliance of Water Districts, Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District (CSJWCD), North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD), and Stockton East Water District (SEWD), located over the critically overdrafted Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin

Friday, February 3, 2017 Minutes

1. Call to Order: Director McGurk called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum of Board members were present (McGurk, Sanguinetti, Thompson, and alternate Watkins). Also present were SEWD's General Manager Moody, SEWD'S Assistant General Manager Johnson, SEWD's District Engineer Lee, SEWD's Administrative Services Manager Carido, SEWD's Administrative Clerk Curtis and Jennifer Spaletta. Extenuating circumstances left North San Joaquin Water Conservation District without a Board member present for roll call. Director Valente arrived at 2:35p.m.
3. Public Comment: None
3. Minutes of April 7, 2016: A motion was moved by Director Thompson and seconded by Director Sanguinetti to approve the April 7, 2016 minutes, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Demonstration Recharge Extraction and Aquifer Management (DREAM) Project: Brandon Nakagawa provided the group with information on the Demonstration Recharge Extraction and Aquifer Management (DREAM) Project. Brandon Nakagawa reported on the steps that have been taken on the road to the groundwater export permit issuance. Brandon Nakagawa reported on February 17, 2016 there was a presentation on the Project at the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Advisory Water Commission (SJCFCWAC). The public draft of the Mitigated Negative Declaration was issued and published on March 4, 2016. Brandon Nakagawa reported this is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document that must accompany the export permit and has to precede the project approval.

Brandon Nakagawa reported Woodbridge Irrigation District (WID) made their comments shortly after the release of the Mitigated Negative Declaration. San Joaquin County has met with WID a few times to deal with their opposition. Brandon Nakagawa reported subsequently, the comment period has been pushed back several times to address the comments WID brought up.

Brandon Nakagawa reported in August 2016 the County was in concurrence with WID to release the environmental document and ask the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors to consider adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Brandon Nakagawa reported North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD) has a number of projects tied up in the Mitigated Negative Declaration. If this had not gone through NSJWCD would not have the environmental documentation to conduct the projects they need to complete.

Brandon Nakagawa reported the Board of Supervisors approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration which opened a 45-day comment period. Of which, no formal lawsuits or challenges were received.

Brandon Nakagawa reported the County is looking for concurrence to move forward with the DREAM Project and restart the export permit process. If the Eastern Water Alliance (EWA) approves concurrence today, Brandon will republish the noticing, opening a 30-day comment period for the application. Brandon Nakagawa reported the next SJCFCWAC meeting will be held February 15, 2017 where the County will be asking the Advisory Committee to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to consider issuing an export permit. Brandon Nakagawa reported the first meeting date available for the Board of Supervisors would be March 7, 2017 to set a hearing date per the ordinance. Due to the time frame the first date the Board of Supervisors could contemplate the export permit issuance would be April 11, 2017. Jennifer Spaletta added NSJWCD would like to get this before the Board of Supervisors as soon as possible.

Director Sanguinetti voiced his disappointment that there is no representation from NSJWCD and voiced his concern that this is the participation level that can be expected from NSJWCD throughout this process.

Director Sanguinetti reported he is concerned about WID's position and uncertainty of what they expect to happen as an outcome of this Project. Doug Heberle, WID replied they are not interested in holding up the Project or export permit, their concern lies within their pre-1914 water rights, which is an issue they are working on with East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD).

Director Watkins reported when the Project was originally brought before the EWA there was a principal of agreements for NSJWCD to receive money if they completed specific steps and EBMUD to would make water in certain years available to Counties in the area. Director Watkins inquired that this Project is set to move forward as originally explained to include the Protest Dismissal Agreement. Jennifer Spaletta replied yes, there were attempts to negotiate with EBMUD and WID to resolve WID concerns with an amendment to the Protest Dismissal Agreement, but that was unsuccessful. At this point the Protest Dismissal Agreement is exactly the same as it was a year ago.

Manager Moody inquired if a time extension has been granted to EBMUD making the Protest Dismissal Agreement void. Jennifer Spaletta replied no, if they do not follow through on their end then they have breached the agreement and we can go to the State Water Resources Control Board and advise of the breach. Fritz Buchman reported the Protest Agreement has a deadline for issuance of export permit in order to make funding available for the Project, the date is June 30, 2017.

Jennifer Spaletta inquired if there are any concerns from WID that should be addressed now. Doug Heberle replied WID has no issue with the DREAM Project. WID needs to work with EBMUD to get a sharper definition of their senior water rights and how they translate year to year.

A motion was moved by Director Sanguinetti and seconded by Director Valente to reconfirm the Eastern Water Alliances' position in support of the DREAM Project. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Director Reports: None
7. Agenda Planning for Next Meeting: None
8. Adjournment: Director McGurk adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director Flinn
Secretary