

#### **DIRECTORS**

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Division 6

Thomas McGurk Vice President Division 7

#### **STAFF**

Justin M. Hopkins General Manager

Juan M.Vega Assistant General Manager

#### **LEGAL COUNSEL**

Jeanne M. Zolezzi General Counsel

Phone 209-948-0333 Fax 209-948-0423

E-mail sewd@sewd.net

6767 East Main Street Stockton, CA 95215

Post Office Box 5157 Stockton, CA 95205

# Eastern Water Alliance

Post Office Box 5157, Stockton, CA 95205

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

#### NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Water Alliance will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at Stockton East Water District, 6767 East Main Street, Stockton, California

#### MEETING OF THE EASTERN WATER ALLIANCE

1) Call to Order

Page No.

- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Public Comment

Action items:

- 4) Approve Minutes
  - a. May 24, 2023

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- 5) Appoint Representative to DREAM Monitoring Committee
- 6) Meeting of The Dream Monitoring Committee
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Public Comment
  - d. Demonstration Recharge Extraction and Aquifer Management (DREAM)
    - 1. Project Update
    - 2. Proposed Extraction Plan
  - e. Other Business
  - f. Plan for Next Meeting
  - g. Adjournment
- 7) Agenda Planning for Next Meeting
- 8) Adjournment

# **Certification of Posting**

I hereby certify that on November 16, 2023 I posted a copy of the foregoing agenda in the outside display case at the District Office, 6767 East Main Street, Stockton, California, said time being at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Water Alliance (Government Code Section 54954.2). Executed at Stockton, California on November 16, 2023.

Priya Ram, Finance Director Stockton East Water District

**Assistance for the Disabled:** If you are disabled in any way and need accommodation to participate in the meeting, please call Heather Wood, Administrative Assistant (209) 948-0333 for assistance so the necessary arrangements can be made.

Agenda Item: 4a Date: 11/22/23

# Eastern Water Alliance (EWA)

Post Office Box 5157 Stockton, CA 95205

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

## Wednesday, May 24, 2023 Minutes

#### MEETING OF THE DREAM MONITORING COMMITTEE

- 1. <u>Call to Order:</u> The DREAM Monitoring Committee was called to order at 1:30 p.m., by Matt Zidar.
- 2. Roll Call: Representatives of the DREAM Monitoring Committee in attendance were SJC Water Resources Manager Zidar, NSJWCD Director Simpson, SEWD General Manager Hopkins, and landowner representative Tod Hill. Attending virtually was EBMUD Associate Civil Engineer Su. Also present were SEWD Directors McGurk and Watkins, Assistant Manager Vega, and Administrative Clerk Garland, NSJWCD Director Colombini and Legal Counsel Spaletta, CSJWCD Director Thomson, and Tim Allan with Renewable Resources Group (RRG).
- 3. Public Comment: None
- 4. Demonstration Recharge Extraction and Aquifer Management (DREAM)
  - A. Project Update and Test Results

An update was provided by EBMUD. The project has released 342 acre-feet of water to the Mokelumne River and banked. 42 acre-feet of banked water have been extracted between February 6 and 23, 2023, at a rate of one million gallons per day. During the extraction period groundwater levels in the monitoring wells increased.

SJC Water Resources Manager Zidar commented that San Joaquin County will work with Condor to draft a technical memorandum identifying lessons learned and outlining next steps.

- 5. Other Business: None
- 6. <u>Plan for Next Meeting:</u> NSJWCD Legal Counsel Spaletta advised that agency staff will discuss the next meeting date within the following weeks.
- 7. Adjournment: SJC Water Resources Manager Zidar adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

#### MEETING OF THE EASTERN WATER ALLIANCE

- 1. <u>Call to Order:</u> Director McGurk called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m.
- 2. <u>Roll Call:</u> A quorum of the Eastern Water Alliance Board members were present (McGurk, alternate Watkins, Thompson, Simpson, and Colombini). Also present were SEWD's General Manager Hopkins, Assistant Manager Vega and Administrative Clerk Garland, SJC Water Resources Manager Zidar, and NSJWCD Legal Counsel Spaletta. Attending virtually was EBMUD Associate Civil Engineer Su.
- 3. Public Comment: None

## 4. RRG Presentation:

Tim Allan, a representative with Renewable Resources Group, LLC (RRG) provided the committee with a presentation on renewable energy projects. RRG uses expertise in water, agriculture, renewable energy, and conservation to generate financial returns alongside positive environmental and social outcomes. Additionally, RRG has developed major sustainable water and renewable energy projects for water districts in the California region. Mr. Allan provided the committee with project photos showing the seven irrigation districts RRG has partnered with, all of which reside within Kern and Tulare counties. RRG has collaboratively developed policies for several Districts and landowners to utilize and assist in meeting Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) compliance. Discussion followed relating to the project's goals and outcomes.

SJC Water Resources Manager Zidar stated the District should incentivize investments and create some ownership of the critically overdraft basin that people are contributing to. There is more recognition now than ever before that it's going to have to be about partnership, whether the districts are responsible for doing capital project development or something like private/public partnerships or private/private, and sees a positive opportunity to have those conversations.

Director McGurk suggested this information be relayed to stakeholders via educational workshops through the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA).

The Board thanked Mr. Allen for his presentation.

## 5. Approve Minutes:

- a. June 21, 2021
- b. November 18, 2021

A motion was moved by Director Colombini and seconded by Director Watkins to approve the June 21, 2021 and November 18, 2021 minutes, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 6. Appoint Representative to DREAM Monitoring Committee:

A motion was moved by Director Simpson and seconded by Director Colombini to accept the appointments to the DREAM Monitoring Committee.

Director Simpson requested staff send an updated roster of the DREAM Monitoring Committee.

# 7. Approve Extension of Time to Complete the DREAM Project:

The committee discussed approving the extension of time to complete the DREAM Project as the project should have included 1,000-acre feet of water recharged and 500-acre feet of that volume recovered for EBMUD. The numbers so far are significantly lower than anticipated.

A motion was moved by Director Simpson and seconded by Director Watkins to approve extension of time to complete the project. The motion passed unanimously.

# 8. Approve Additional Acres to be used for In-lieu Recharge for DREAM project:

The committee discussed adding 290 acres of additional land to be included in the project to expedite groundwater banking. The extraction rate will remain the same. EBMUD loses a portion of their banked water each year it is not removed.

Director Simpson inquired if the area outlined in red on the staff report is where additional acreage will be added. NSJWCD Legal Counsel Spaletta confirmed.

Director Watkins inquired if there is a conflict of interest for landowner representative Robert Caffese, as Mr. Caffese owns land within the expanded area. NSJWCD Legal Counsel Spaletta responded stating there may be a need to replace Mr. Caffese on the monitoring committee. Director Simpson recommended Denise Warmerdam as a potential candidate.

SJC Water Resources Manager Zidar inquired when the next extraction is scheduled to take place. NSJWCD Legal Counsel Spaletta responded October. The pipeline is being replaced and the construction scheduled is being modified to maximize the use of surface water in 2024-2025. EBMUD Assistant Civil Engineer Su added it is possible to have the next extraction take place in 2023-2024, however the goal is to finish the project as plan, adding the extraction would take about four months.

A motion was moved by Director Colombini and seconded by Director Watkins to approve adding approximately 290 acres of additional land to be included in the project. The motion passed unanimously.

- 9. <u>Agenda Planning for next Meeting:</u> The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 13, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.
- 10. Adjournment: Director McGurk adjourned the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

Justin Hopkins	
Secretary	

Respectfully submitted,

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