

THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT WAS HELD AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE
6767 EAST MAIN STREET, STOCKTON, CA
ON FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2022 AT 12:00 P.M., NOON

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

The special meeting came to order at 12:31 p.m.

Present at the District were Directors Atkins, Cortopassi, McGurk, Sanguinetti and Watkins. Also present were Manager Moody, Assistant Manager Hopkins and Administrative Services Manager Carido.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR (None)

C. PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

D. SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS AND AGENDA ITEMS

San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Chuck Winn briefly spoke before the scheduled presentations began. Supervisor Winn reported the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is one of the most discussed topics in regards to San Joaquin County and noted in January 2015 when he took office he inherited the Groundwater Basin and was told it would be very difficult to get all agencies together with one Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Supervisor Winn commended the 16 GSAs on coming together because we do have one GSP. Supervisor Winn mentioned having a discussion with a reporter down in the valley and in that area, the reporter mentioned every GSA has their own GSP; and re-emphasized that we have one. Supervisor Winn thanked the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on their involvement from the very beginning and with all of their help along the way.

Kris Balaji, San Joaquin County Director of Public Works extended appreciation to DWR noting Public Works is all about partnerships and opportunity to work with each other. Mr. Balaji commented this event today with DWR is an opportunity to further collaboration with our stakeholders in the Eastern San Joaquin Basin. Mr. Balaji stated this is also an opportunity for our local partners from projects such as FiroMAR or FloodMAR and expressed being ready for it. Mr. Balaji commented today is a great opportunity to showcase to the State how the State, County and Local Agencies worked together and expressed hope to reflect in 10 years on all the efforts that were put into solving the problem of sustainability. Mr. Balaji thanked DWR; Supervisor Winn and Supervisor Miller for coming out today.

1. Department of Water Resources – Deputy Director, Paul Gosselin

Department of Water Resources, Deputy Director Paul Gosselin gave a brief overview of his history before joining DWR in his current role of Deputy Director last year June. Prior, Deputy Director Gosselin was Director of Water Conservation, in Butte County working on 3 Plans for 3 Basins that were not critically over-drafted. Deputy Director Gosselin noted Plan development is incredibly complex and commented on the remarkable work to get the Plan submitted on time as we did.

Deputy Director Gosselin provided reflection on the Tour and SGMA, the first observation had when SGMA was passed locally, SGMA is more about relationships and about how we work together than the technical issues. The DWR has a unique role under the law and the law is built on local control and local discretion; it is absolutely critical for local values and interests to be determined locally. The role of DWR is regulatory, plans are substantially compliant and provide technical assistance tools. It is DWR's goal to get to approval and keep control local. Deputy Director Gosselin mentioned having to recognize the current is more than the last couple of years of funding which has not always been this way; in the past 30 years this is the first time that DWR is not reducing staffing or funding and gave an overview of efforts for grant funding for groundwater recharge; noting that even more critical is finding a collective way statewide that projects get completed so they can benefit in dry years. Deputy Director Gosselin commented on SGMA and the heightened drought with the notion that everything needs fixing now. Deputy Director Gosselin clarified that is not the purpose of SGMA, the purpose is for long-term resilience over time; it has to be adapted along the way and DWR will need to adapt their approach along the way also to ensure they meet the requirement on sustainability. Deputy Director Gosselin stated SGMA will be good for agriculture, communities and the environment. Deputy Director Gosselin added he is available for any questions, comments or thoughts and thanked the group and for hosting the event today.

Director Sanguinetti commented the government provides funding opportunities but usually by the time funding is available, it is too late and everyone is getting a piece of it. Director Sanguinetti stated the addition of the permitting process takes a lot time and money and expressed interest in finding a way to speed up getting the environmental work completed. Deputy Director Gosselin agreed with Director Sanguinetti and reported currently, grant funding efforts have been the fastest at getting the money out to recipients; and as a previous recipient, he is familiar with the process taking about 18-months before receiving grant monies. Deputy Director Gosselin inquired if there are any creative ideas on this noting it is a policy level across the state and this process should not take too much time because recipients could be missing wet cycles due to paperwork.

2. Stockton East Water District – General Manager, Scot A. Moody

Manager Moody welcomed the group and gave a presentation on the projects that Stockton East Water District is doing to put the GSP into action. Manager Moody reported the perception is the District has not done anything in the last two-years. Manager Moody reported the District was historically was formed with the intent to manage groundwater in this area because of the saline intrusion and the groundwater levels in the City have recovered dramatically since the District built the 65 MG Treatment Plant. The District is a wholesaler to the City of Stockton and the District itself is approximately 144,000 acres which includes the City of Stockton. Manager Moody added an interesting fact that the way the District was formed when the City of Stockton's boundaries expand, we expand with them. Manager Moody gave an overview of projects the District has completed such as the District's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP); managed aquifer recharge efforts to include the new raw water storage pond to the north of the campus; in-lieu recharge of ~5,000 acre-feet since the approval of the GSP by converting 1,800 acres from groundwater to surface water (9-new surface water diversions) and automation of infrastructure to supply Potter Creek with New Hogan and New Melones water supply. Manager Moody then gave an overview of the District's current activities such as the Bellota Project (part of several improvements to facilities on the Calaveras River per the HCP); continuing managed aquifer recharge via a project with SJAFCA, DWR & the USACE to construct a new 96-acre recharge

pond on campus that the Engineering Report estimates up to ~16,000 acre-feet of recharge annually and efforts to merge with Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District (Central), noting Central has a contract for ~80,000 acre-feet of New Melones water. Manager Moody then gave an overview of the District's planning efforts consisting of an additional 7 SEWD turnouts & 3 Central turnouts with a potential of ~11,600 acre-feet annually; FloodMAR; FiroMAR and the Farmington Dam Conjunctive Use Project which is construction of a new foundation for the existing Farmington Dam to allow for water storage. Manager Moody concluded the presentation and welcomed any questions.

3. Stockton East Water District Site Tour

The participants that were interested took a walk across New Water Lane to view the District's recharge ponds.

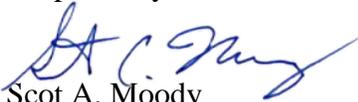
E. REPORT OF THE COUNSEL (None)

~~The meeting concluded at 1:08 p.m.~~

F. ADJOURNMENT

President Watkins adjourned the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scot A. Moody
Secretary of the Board

kmc

