

**SOQUEL/APTOS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
BASIN IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (BIG)
MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Tom LaHue called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present:

Tom LaHue, Soquel Creek Water District
Bruce Daniels, Soquel Creek Water District
John Benich, Central Water District
Bob Postle, Central Water District
Bill Wigginton, Seascope Greens Homeowners Association
John Leopold, County of Santa Cruz
Cynthia Mathews, City of Santa Cruz
Micah Posner, City of Santa Cruz

Committee Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Kim Adamson, General Manager, Soquel Creek Water District
Ralph Bracamonte, Manager, Central Water District
John Ricker, Santa Cruz County Water Resources Division Director
Melanie Schumacher, Soquel Creek Water District
Ron Duncan, Soquel Creek Water District
Jon Kennedy, Private Well Owner
Heidi Luckenbach, City of Santa Cruz
Lindsay Kammeier, The Covello Group
Cameron Tana, HydroMetrics, WRI (via conference call at 7:15 p.m.)
Karen Reese, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk, Soquel Creek Water District

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Bruce Daniels commented on the regulations for the GSA not having a planning horizon in terms of sustainability. How long does sustainability need to be maintained for? Climate changes will change the way the plan is formulated.

John Leopold commented that he has spoken with state legislative staff. They are looking at what agencies are going to be working on before they start describing what it is they expect to see. He noted that the Basin Implementation Group (BIG) is ahead of the curve in this process.

Bruce Daniels noted that one of the reports that came out of this month's talks stated there is about an 80% chance of a 35-year drought that will be twice as extreme as has been seen in the last millenium.

5. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

5.1 Set 2015 Meeting Schedule

Discussion was held to set the meeting schedule for the rest of 2015.

MOTION: Bruce Daniels; Second; Tom LaHue: To direct staff to set the BIG meeting for the 3rd Thursday of every other month at 7:00 p.m. beginning on May 21st. Motion passed unanimously.

5.2 Review and Approve Third Amendment to Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA)

Ms. Adamson reviewed the draft amendments to the JPA agreement included in the BIG packet (page 5 of 135). It should be noted that PVWMA will not be a part of the JPA, but will continue participating in an advisory role. Discussion ensued.

Changes include:

- The name of the group will be the Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Management Committee (S-AGMC)

The Committee shall be composed of 11 members:

- Two members from each of the partner agencies, each of whom shall be appointed by their respective boards.
- Three public members who shall each be a person or representative of an entity served by, owning, or managing a non-municipal well. The public committee members shall be selected by the partner agency committee members and shall be appointed to serve a two year term.

The membership of the S-AGMC will be voted on by the partner agencies.

MOTION: John Leopold; Second; Bruce Daniels: To approve the Draft Third Amendment of the JPA and recommend approval to respective member agencies. Motion passed unanimously.

5.3 Soquel-Aptos Area Groundwater Management Annual Budget FY 2015/16

Ms. Schumacher reviewed the proposed budget which is included in the BIG packet (page 27 of 135).

Lengthy discussion was held. Changes included removing the hydrology Annual Review and Report (ARR) from the budget until the groundwater model is completed and reducing the amount for facilitation services to \$50,000. Discussion included monitoring funds that are available from other sources, i.e. DWR, IRWM, Prop 1 drought funds, and USGS.

MOTION: Tom LaHue; Second; Bruce Daniels: To recommend approval of the Budget FY 2015/16 budget estimate for groundwater management activities in the Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Management Area Basin minus the cost of the ARR **and** lower the budget for facilitation services to \$50,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Cameron Tana joined the meeting via conference call

5.4 Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Model Work Plan

Ms. Schumacher reviewed the background of the groundwater model proposal.

Two scoping meetings were held and an updated work plan was submitted and is attached to the BIG packet (page 31 of 135). Changes include the USGS model code GSFLOW would be used as the watershed groundwater model. The new PRMS model would also be used. Climate change scenarios will be included. The revised overall cost estimate for the Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Model scope of work is \$591,000. The cost estimate for fiscal year 2015-2016, including USGS costs, is \$397,850.

Mr. Tana gave a comprehensive report and answered questions.

MOTION: Bruce Daniels; Second; Tom LaHue: To approve the revised scope of work and budget for the Soquel-Aptos Area Groundwater Model Work Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

5.5 Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Formation

Ms. Schumacher reviewed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) that was signed into law in 2014, and effective as of January 1, 2015, lays out a stepwise process and timeline for local authorities to achieve sustainable management of groundwater basins. It also provides tools, authorities and deadlines to take the necessary steps to achieve the goal.

- Step one: Local agencies must form local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) by June 30, 2017
- Step two: Agencies in basins deemed high- or medium-priority must adopt groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) by 2020 or 2022, depending on whether a basin is in critical overdraft.
- Step three: Once plans are in place, local agencies have 20 years to fully implement them and achieve the sustainability goal (by 2040 or 2042).

Ms. Schumacher reviewed the survey results about formation of the GSA and community participation. After discussion it was agreed by the committee that a new task force/group does not need to be formed. Those involved in the process are already part of the S-AGMC and sitting at the table tonight, so it was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to include additional private well representatives. Russ McGlothlin will work with the subcommittee to come up with the framework to bring back to the S-AGMC.

MOTION: John Benich; Second; Tom LaHue: That each entity appoints one person to the S-AGMC GSA Formation sub-committee **and** to include Jon Kennedy and Bill Wigginton **and** for the sub-committee to come back with specific issues that require stakeholder input. Motion passed unanimously.

Additional discussion was held regarding the budget for the subcommittee.

MOTION: Tom LaHue; Second; Bruce Daniels: To budget up to \$50,000* for facilitation and public outreach. Motion passed unanimously.

*Note: This was also included in the motion of item 5.3. The approved total budgeted amount is for up to \$50,000 for facilitation and outreach and should not be considered as two separate, additive items.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Quarterly Monitoring Reports

Discussion was held and Mr. Tana answered questions regarding the Quarterly reports of basin activity by HydroMetrics (attached to the BIG packet on page 64 of 135). Both SqCWD and Central Water District reported that, overall, pumping is down for their customers.

6.2 Meeting with Department Of Water Resources to Discuss Local Issues Pertaining to Implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Ms. Adamson reported that S-AGMC most likely won't be used as a pilot project since they are not using a process that can be used and applied elsewhere in the State.

6.3 Department of Water Resources Groundwater - Sustainability Program Draft Strategic Plan

The Department of Water Resources has released a draft strategic plan for its Groundwater Sustainability Program describing DWR's responsibilities and outlining key actions it will take to support local agencies with implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Ms. Adamson reported that the comment period is now open.

7. MANAGER'S REPORTS

7.1 Central Water District – oral

Mr. Bracamonte reported the following:

- He's proud of the cutback in water usage throughout Central Water District.
- Customers continue to cut back monthly.

7.2 City of Santa Cruz – oral

Ms. Luckenbach reported the following:

- The City is going to ask for Stage 3 cutbacks similar to last year.
- The reservoirs are not up that much; the stream flows have dropped below the levels of the 1976-1977 drought.
- The Water Supply Advisory Committee (WSAC) has had 11 meetings. The process is committed to being wrapped up in October. The community has been involved in the process.
- Ms. Luckenbach noted two upcoming enrichment programs; 4/8 regarding climate change and 4/22 regarding water exchange.

7.3 County of Santa Cruz – oral

Mr. Ricker reported the following:

- He is completing his water exchange report.
- The County has finished the groundwater model for the Santa Margarita formation.
- The County oversees small water systems (i.e. those less than 200 connections). Quarterly meetings will be held to discuss how the GSA will affect them.
- County ordinances will be amended requiring metering and reporting to conform with the Act.

7.4 Soquel Creek Water District – oral

Ms. Adamson reported the following:

- SqCWD is amending their UWMP. Notification was sent to all agencies within the legal timelines.
- The four year total for rainfall is 74". Less than 80" can trigger a Stage 4 emergency if the Board chooses to elect that stage.
- Conservation levels are good.
- SqCWD received a grant for recycled water recharge feasibility study and SqCWD is in the process of selecting a consultant.
- Legislative issues regarding the GSA – A large number of bills are out there to amend the GSA language. De minimis pumping definition is being considered to change from 2 afy to 10 afy. Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) is not favoring this bill. SqCWD voted to oppose the bill.

7.5 PVWMA – oral

No representatives from PVWMA were present.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Karen Reese, Board Clerk

Ron Duncan, Interim General Manager
Soquel Creek Water District