

**SOQUEL/APTOS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN  
BASIN IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (BIG)  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 23, 2014**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Bruce Jaffe, Soquel Creek Water District called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Committee Members Present:**

Bruce Jaffe, Soquel Creek Water District  
Don Hoernschemeyer, Soquel Creek Water District  
John Benich, Central Water District  
Bill Wigginton, Seascape Greens Homeowners Association  
Bob Postle, Central Water District

**Committee Members Absent:**

None

**Others Present:**

Kim Adamson, General Manager, Soquel Creek Water District  
Ralph Bracamonte, General Manager, Central Water District  
John Ricker, Santa Cruz County Water Resources Division Director  
Brian Lockwood, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency  
Kevin Crossley, City of Santa Cruz Engineer  
Martin Mills, PureSource Water (Private Well Representative)  
Karen Reese, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk, Soquel Creek Water District

**Others Present:**

Cameron Tana, HydroMetrics, WRI participated via conference call  
Jill Densmore, Sacramento, USGS  
Peter Swarzenski, Research oceanographer, Santa Cruz USGS  
Katherine Sweet, private well owner  
Jon Kennedy  
Bruce Daniels, Soquel Creek Water District Board member attending as a member of the public

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3.1.1 August 14, 2014 Special Meeting  
Minor corrections were made.

3.1.2 November 12, 2013 Regular Meeting

Minutes could not be approved for this meeting as those present at the 11/12/13 meeting were not present tonight to vote. The minutes will be sent to Tom LaHue and Carol Monkerud to review and brought back to a subsequent meeting for approval.

MOTION: Don Hoernschemeyer; Second; John Benich: To approve the minutes of August 14, 2014 with corrections. Motion passed.
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4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Katherine Sweet asked that domestic private well owners have representation on the BIG and nominated Jon Kennedy for the position. About 12% of what is extracted from the Purisima is from domestic private wells. Mr. Kennedy has the knowledge and interest to contribute. He has been working extensively with private well data using the Wolcott report.

Ms. Adamson indicated that the committee restructuring process will be discussed at a later date. The outcome may result in a position for a small domestic private well representative. Mr. Kennedy was thanked for his interest in participating.

Mr. Daniels stated it is unclear to him if the assumption that restructuring the BIG into a sustainable water group is the right thing to do or if an entire new group should be created. He also stated that a Prop 218 process would be required and this should be looked at.

Director Jaffe asked if this should be discussed at the individual group level or if it should be discussed at the BIG.

Ms. Adamson indicated this would be part of the stakeholder process and the facilitated process to discuss was it should look like. There have been staff level meetings and was discussion of whether there should be one county-wide organization with all of the different entities involved or should there be a separate group for each basin. These questions will be addressed through the formation discussion and recommendation process. The sustainable groundwater agency has to be made up of one or more municipal water suppliers. Modifications to basin boundaries were also discussed. The new law requires a plan to be formulated by 2017.

5. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

5.1 Approve Scope of Work and Budget for 2014 Annual Review and Report

Mr. Tana is available via phone for questions. The committee agreed that the reports from HydroMetrics have been improving and informative.

MOTION: Don Hoernschemeyer; Second; Bob Postle: To approve the Scope of Work and Budget for the 2014 Annual Review and Report to be prepared by HydroMetrics WRI. Motion passed.
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5.2 Consider Scope of Work from USGS to Attend Scoping Meetings for Support of Basin Groundwater Model

Mr. Bracamonte reviewed the background behind the USGS participation in scoping meetings for the Basin Groundwater Model. The costs would be shared 89% SqCWD and 11% CWD. This is for USGS to attend the scoping meetings.

Director Jaffe indicated he is employed by the USGS and would abstain from voting on items pertaining to the USGS.

**Public comments:**

Bruce Daniels indicated he has talked with the person making the proposal and noted they have expertise in using a combination of Mod flow and PRMS.

Kevin Crossly asked what the vision is after the initial scoping meetings for costs.

Mr. Bracamonte indicated a proposal would come back to the committee once USGS has met with HydroMetrics. Ms. Adamson said it could be between \$50,000 and \$100,000 for the entire process.

Mr. Tana specified they would want their advice in the scoping meetings to help guide the process from the beginning.

MOTION: John Benich; Second; Don Hoernschemeyer: To approve the proposal from USGS to develop a Soquel Aptos Basin Groundwater Model with costs share based on 2014-2015 member cost share. Director Benich and Director Hoernschemeyer voted in favor of the motion. Director Postle abstained. Mr. Wigginton voted against the motion. Director Jaffe abstained.

Additional discussion was held clarifying the relationship between USGS and HydroMetrics and what would be the benefit of accepting the proposal for USGS to assist HydroMetrics with the scoping process.

After discussion another vote was held.

MOTION: John Benich; Second; Don Hoernschemeyer: To approve the proposal from USGS to develop a Soquel Aptos Basin Groundwater Model with costs share based on 2014-2015 member cost share. Director Benich, Director Hoernschemeyer, Director Postle and Mr. Wigginton voted in favor of the motion. Director Jaffe abstained. Motion passed.

The proposal will go before Central Water District's board at their next meeting on 10/21/14.

### 5.3 Consider Scope of Work for Geophysical Investigation to Identify Location of Seawater/Freshwater Interface

Jill Densmore, USGS and Peter Swarzenski, USGS gave a detailed presentation regarding the proposal for the valuation of the seawater/freshwater interface for the Soquel/Aptos watershed (**See Attached Exhibit A**).

Methods proposed are Transient Electromagnetic (TEM) and Direct-Current Resistivity (RES) method collecting data both onshore and offshore.

Lengthy discussion was held. One concern is finding a location to be able to lay out the grids where power lines/fence lines would not be in the way. Another concern is that this would give only a snapshot of what is happening and there is no past data or future data to help make ongoing determinations. Also of concern is investing in something that might only give a narrow view of what is happening. Concern was also expressed that using the methods proposed by the USGS won't identify the location of the interface.

MOTION: Don Hoernschemeyer; Second; Bob Postle: To take no action now and provide staff direction of how to proceed. Director Benich, Director Hoernschemeyer, Director Postle and Mr. Wigginton voted in favor of the motion. Director Jaffe abstained. Motion passed.

Ms. Adamson noted the initiation of this presentation came from Director Jaffe through the SqCWD. Should this go back to the SqCWD Board for consideration? The Stanford work will be moving forward; there is no charge for that. Director Jaffe asked that the USGS proposal be agendaized as an information item on the SqCWD Board's agenda for discussion.

**Don Hoernschemeyer left the meeting at 9:00 pm.**

5.4 Committee to Set Upcoming Meeting Frequency

Discussion was held regarding how often the BIG should meet. With the amount of work for this committee twice a year is not enough.

MOTION: Bruce Jaffe; Second; John Benich: To approve meeting every other month as needed. Motion passed.

Staff will propose days/time that works for all involved and set future meeting time and place.

5.5 Consider Proposal for Retention from Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck for Assistance in Development of Joint Powers Authority

Mr. Bracamonte reviewed the need for the services of Mr. McGlothlin in moving forward with investigating a JPA and created a new agreement. His expertise and experience locally as well as his knowledge of the law are important moving forward. SqCWD and CWD do not have the staff time to work on creating a new entity. The City was invited to be part of the BIG but has chosen to wait. The County has accepted. If the BIG morphs into the Groundwater Sustainability Agency then the whole JPA agreement would have to be recreated.

Ms. Adamson noted that Mr. McGlothlin has had experience facilitating stakeholder processes to form groups like this. If the BIG contracts with Mr. McGlothlin, each entity can use their own counsel to review what is proposed so there will be no conflict.

Ms. Adamson talked about the need to know who is going to be managing which basin for submission to the State. It's important to get moving on what the structure is going to look like and whether it will be county-wide or basin-wide. Every basin in the State has to have a public entity or group of public entities to be the sustainability management agency. They have to register with the State and have different powers than the current BIG has. If no group steps up, then the County defaults, and if the County doesn't step in then the State will.

Discussion was held including how Mr. McGlothlin would help identify the key players, write the agreements and help form a plan that everyone is on board with. Four tasks were identified as follows:

1. Draft joint powers agreement and bylaws. My firm and I have developed numerous joint powers authorities pertaining to water management from which we will draw in developing this agreement and bylaws.
2. Attend one or more initial meetings of stakeholders and public representatives to discuss the development of an optimal groundwater management plan for the Basin, including replenishment options. We will provide examples of strategies employed elsewhere in the state and discuss local needs and opportunities for the Basin.
3. With information and learned from stakeholders, we will provide the Authority with an analysis of available options and implications, including an evaluation of groundwater rights, financing options and related legal considerations, and potentially viable management strategies.
4. We will also provide guidance to the Authority with respect to the new groundwater legislation, which is likely to be adopted in early fall, and other legal considerations relating to the groundwater management plan.

It was asked if the fees of \$10,000 - \$15,000 cover the first task only. Clarification is needed to verify what the fees will cover.

**MOTION:** Bob Postle; Second; Bruce Jaffe: To approve the proposal from Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck for assistance in development of a Joint Powers Authority as long as it includes the four tasks as presented above. Motion passed.

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

6.1 Oral staff reports – none

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The date of the next Basin Implementation Group will sometime in November.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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Karen Reese, Board Clerk

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Kim Adamson, General Manager  
Soquel Creek Water District