



Groundwater is a vital resource, together let's protect it.

midcountygroundwater.org • 5180 Soquel Drive • Soquel, CA 95073

SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Capitola Branch Library, 2005 Wharf Road, Capitola

Meeting webcast (via Zoom) for remote viewing.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Tim Carson.

2. Roll Call

Directors present: (Alternates acting as voting Directors shown in *italics*)

Curt Abramson – Private Well Representative

Carla Christensen (late arrival at 6:13pm) – Soquel Creek Water District

Manu Koenig – County of Santa Cruz

Marco Romanini – Central Water District

Jennifer Balboni – Soquel Creek Water District

Robert Schultz – Private Well Representative

Allyson Violante – County of Santa Cruz

Frances Whitney – Central Water District

Member Agency Staff present:

Ron Duncan – Soquel Creek Water District

Heidi Luckenbach – City of Santa Cruz

Melanie Mow Schumacher – Soquel Creek Water District

Sierra Ryan – County of Santa Cruz

Others:

Tim Carson, Rob Swartz, Sophia Sholtz – Regional Water Management Foundation (RWMF)

Georgina King (remote) – Montgomery & Associates (M&A)

3. Nominations to Elect a Chair Pro Tem

Following nominations and voting, Director Romanini was appointed as the Chair Pro Tem.

4. Appreciation for Service by Ron Duncan

Directors and staff voiced their appreciation of Ron Duncan as he retires as General Manager of Soquel Creek Water District following 21 years of service at the District. He was recognized for his substantial contributions to the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) in his role as an Executive Staff member since the establishment of the MGA in 2016.

5. Oral Communications Related to Items Not on the Agenda

Stephanie Harlan introduced herself as a Board member of the Central Coast (Region 3) Regional Water Quality Control Board. Becky Steinbruner stated various concerns regarding the MGA and the Pure Water Soquel project, including an inability to locate the agenda posted at the Capitola Branch Library. In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, agendas are posted at the meeting location 72 hours in advance of the Board Meeting. Alternate Director Balboni provided updates on recent superior court findings out of Kings County, a recent fire at a Monterey One Water facility, and a recap of information from the recent WateReuse conference.

6. Consent Agenda**6.1 Approve June 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Director Koenig; Second, Director Abramson, to approve the consent agenda as amended to correct a typo in the June 20, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

7. General Business**7.1 Receive Comments on the Draft Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

Georgina King provided an overview of the Draft Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Ms. King provided an overview of the following: how MGA responded to the single GSP recommended corrective action in the June 3, 2021 approval letter from the Department of Water Resources; new information collected since initial GSP adoption; current groundwater conditions relative to GSP sustainable management criteria; the status of GSP projects and management actions; review and modifications to the GSP monitoring network; and outreach and coordination since GSP adoption.

Ms. King responded to multiple questions from Directors, Member Agency staff, and the public. Ms. King was asked about the possible causes for seawater intrusion in Seascape and questions related to the GSP and California-mandated housing construction.

Becky Steinbruner made several requests and stated concerns relating to the Draft Periodic Evaluation.

7.2 Biennial Review of the Conflict of Interest Code

Tim Carson presented the proposed 2024 updates to the Conflict of Interest code. Updates include a change in job title and the addition of the position of General Counsel.

No questions or comments.

MOTION: Director Abramson; Second, Director Christensen, to approve the Proposed 2024 Amendment to the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency Conflict of Interest Code. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Informational Updates

8.1 Treasurer's Report

No questions or comments.

8.2 Staff Reports

- Presentation on County Well Ordinance Update

Sierra Ryan presented on the update to the County's Well Ordinance and the Individual Water System Ordinance. Construction requirement updates were required due to recent policy changes such as Senate Bill 552 and Executive Order N-7-22 that put a greater burden on counties to manage domestic wells, especially during drought periods, and to manage and avoid well interference, respectively. Sierra Ryan also discussed updates to the permitting process to date, including a tiered approach, and more extensive water quality testing requirements.

Sierra Ryan confirmed that for time-of-sale inspections, any findings would be a disclosure to the buyer and that there are no current requirements for corrective action.

Becky Steinbruner asked about current practices for water reuse from the yield tests required for new wells. Sierra Ryan provided a correction that language concerning groundwater emergency declarations remains in the current Well Ordinance and was not removed in the 2009 update.

- GSP Implementation Status Update

No comments or questions.

- SGMI Grant Update

No comments or questions.

9. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were requested.

10. Written Communications and Submitted Materials

Written comments on the Draft Periodic Evaluation can be found at the MGA website.

11. Adjournment

Next Board Meeting: December 12, 2024

SUBMITTED BY:

DocuSigned by:
Sophia Sholtz
5EE57E8C43BE498...

Sophia Sholtz
Regional Water Management Foundation

DocuSigned by:
Jim Kerr
8A3AF714C7E743F...

Jim Kerr, Secretary
Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency