

**CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA REGION MULTI-AGENCY
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
PUBLIC HEARING NO.1
MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 8, 2017**

The Steering Committee of the Central Delta-Mendota Multi-Agency GSA convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. at 12931 S Hwy 33, in Santa Nella, California for the first of two legally mandated Public Hearings.

Steering Committee Members and Alternate Members in Attendance

John Bennett, Eagle Field Water District - Randall Miles, Alternate
Liz Reeves, Fresno Slough Water District
Aaron Barcellos, Pacheco Water District
Vince Luchessi, Alternate, San Luis Water District
Amy Montgomery, Santa Nella County Water District
Danny Wade, Tranquillity Irrigation District
Augustine Ramirez, Alternate, Fresno County
Jerry O'Banion, Merced County

Authority Representatives Present

Diane Rathmann, Legal Counsel
Andrew Garcia, Associate Civil Engineer
Kirsten Pringle (MWH Consultant, Facilitator to SLDMWA)

Others in Attendance

Jarrett Martin, Central California Irrigation District
Dane Mathis, Department of Water Resources
Rick Iger, Consultant - Provost & Prtichard
Patricia Ramirez, Lulac and resident of Santa Nella
Frank Leonard, Resident of Volta CSD
Stephen Landry, Santa Nella Board

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

MWH Facilitator Kirsten Pringle called the meeting to order.

2. Self-Introductions

Facilitator Kirsten Pringle initiated self-introductions.

3. Acknowledge Appointments of Steering Committee Members and Alternates

Diane Rathmann stated the Steering Committee Members had been appointed by their respective agencies under the terms of the Multi-Agency GSA Agreement and the

fact that there was a quorum of Steering Committee members present.

4. Description of Steering Committee Voting

Diane Rathmann gave a brief explanation of how each GSA Participant is entitled to one vote, with public input through specific outreach efforts and via the opportunity to attend and participate at all meetings.

5. Steering Committee to select Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary

The Steering Committee members selected Aaron Barcellos, who volunteered for the position, as Chair, John Bennett as Vice-Chairman and Danny Wade as Secretary with support/duties to be performed by Andrew Garcia.

6. Open Public Hearing

a. Summary presentation on proposed Multi-Agency GSA

Kirsten Pringle outlined subbasin boundaries and the potential number of GSA's as well as the advantage of cost-sharing as a Multi-Agency GSA and the role of the facilitator in outreach efforts.

b. Description of Proceedings to establish GSA

Diane Rathmann described the process of establishing the Multi-Agency GSA Agreement document and the requirements of (2) public hearings, one in Merced County and one in Fresno County. She stated that there is no new entity created by the GSA agreement and explained how contracting and budgets, at least for now, will be conducted by the same agencies participating in an Activity Agreement with SLDMWA.

c. Steering Committee question or comments

Aaron Barcellos asked for clarification on the role of the Steering Committee; Rathmann responded describing the main purpose is to facilitate approval of activities leading to development and ultimately approval of a final Groundwater Sustainability Plan by the GSA Participants. The Steering Committee will also have an active role in implementation of the Plan.

d. Receipt of Comments from Public

- Stephen Landry commented on the need for groundwater recharge to address subsidence and that it is important to recapture water during

wet years.

- Steering Committee Member Danny Wade responded with work and projects Tranquillity ID is doing for identifying recharge areas.
- Patricia Ramirez commented on the importance of public outreach and engagement, emphasizing the need for providing information in multiple languages and utilizing visuals that do not require a lot of pre-existing knowledge. She described the public and farmers as being an asset who can overcome challenges and agricultural businesses should provide input. Lastly, Ramirez described the importance of allowing opportunities for input prior to any fees being assessed or proposed.
- Dane Mathis replied with details of 85 Million in funds from DWR available late 2017 for GSP development across the state.
- Steering Committee Member O'Banion commented that outreach will be made as required by law.

7. Adjourn Public Hearing until March 13, 2017 at 10:00 AM

Facilitator Pringle adjourned the Public Hearing portion of the meeting and opened the meeting to public comment on items not on the agenda.

8. Opportunity for Public Comment

John Bennett asked if we will be limited on pumping and Andrew responded that will be more clear as a better understanding of the subbasin and areas in the subbasin is developed.

Danny Wade noted there will be hard decisions and that the GSA's role is to figure out how to keep farming and jobs in the subbasin and Aaron added support to Danny's statement.

9. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Sec 54954.2

Kirsten Pringle noted that because this is the first meeting of the Steering Committee, there are no reports to discuss.

10. Adjourn Steering Committee Meeting to continue until March 13, 2017 at 10:00 AM

Kirsten Pringle adjourned the Steering Committee Meeting to continue at Tranquillity Irrigation District's office on March 13 at 10 AM. Adjourned at approximately 11:00 AM.