

**CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA REGION MULTI-AGENCY
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
PUBLIC HEARING NO. 2
MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 13, 2017**

The Steering Committee of the Central Delta-Mendota Multi-Agency GSA convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. at 25390 W Silveira Ave., in Tranquillity, California for the second of two legally mandated Public Hearings.

Steering Committee Members and Alternate Members in Attendance

Randall Miles, Alternate, Eagle Field Water District
Liz Reeves, Fresno Slough Water District
Aaron Barcellos, Pacheco Water District, Juan Cadena, Alternate
Joe McGahan, Panoche Water District
Amy Montgomery, Santa Nella County Water District
Danny Wade, Tranquillity Irrigation District
Augustine Ramirez, Alternate, Fresno County

Authority Representatives Present

Andrew Garcia, Associate Civil Engineer
Kirsten Pringle (MWH Consultant, Facilitator to SLDMWA)

Others in Attendance

Dane Mathis, Department of Water Resources
Lauren Layne, Attorney to Tranquillity and Fresno Slough Water District
Steven Sopp, Fresno County
Lacey Kiriakou, Merced County
Bill Diedrich, Farmer
John Seasholtz, Seasholtz Farms
Peter Cacossa, Seasholtz Farms
Keith Eubanks, Eubanks Ranch
Ken Carvalho, Ken Carvalho Ranch
Nino Carvalho,
Jason Dean, Meyers Farming
Michelle Earecart, Law office of Melanie Aldridge

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Aaron Barcellos called the meeting to order.

2. Self-Introductions

Chairman Barcellos requested that those present introduce themselves.

3. Acknowledge Appointments of Steering Committee Members and Alternates

Lauren Layne acknowledged the appointment of the members and the fact that there was a quorum of Steering Committee members present.

4. Description of Steering Committee Voting

Lauren Layne provided 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. 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.

5. Brief review of March 8 Organizational Meeting

Andrew Garcia briefly described the March 8 meeting and main public comments that were received which are captured in the March 8 Meeting Minutes.

6. Re-Open Adjourned Public Hearing

a. Summary presentation on proposed Multi-Agency GSA

Andrew Garcia informed the Committee on the setup of the Multi-Agency GSA and its intents and purposes.

b. Description of Proceedings to establish GSA

Lauren Layne explained 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 with public noticing for two weeks and agendas posted on the Water Authority website and at both meeting locations.

Aaron Barcellos asked for clarification on the role of the Steering Committee; Lauren responded explaining this is *not* a new government agency; it is a committee of agencies working together under an activity agreement. Individual member agencies will have to approve the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The committee provides recommendations for approval.

There is also a Management Committee, which will likely be the same representatives from this committee.

c. **Receipt of Comments from Public**

- Is the agreement with the Authority available online? Interest in the attachment on cost allocation. Andrew Garcia responded that the Agreement is online but possibly without final attachments. The Authority will upload the final Draft document to the groundwater section of its website.
- Augustine Ramirez provided a brief description of the cost allocation. The cost share for the Authority's services is variable based on the size of the agency and represented by a percentage. The percentage amounts vary from 6% to 18% of the costs. The cost share also includes agencies outside of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA.
- What information from this Committee is required to be shared with the public? Both Andrew Garcia and Lauren Layne responded: All information will be publicly available. Although this is not a new government agency, it is a Brown Act body. All agendas, meeting materials, etc. will be available to the public and will follow the Brown Act rules for posting meeting agendas. Also, the Water Authority is working on forming a website for the GSA, which is a SGMA requirement.
- Is there grant funding for this? What about Prop 1 funding? Dane Mathis replied with details of 85 Million in funds from DWR available late 2017 for GSP development across the state. There is \$51 million through the IRWM program for disadvantaged communities; the planning grants have already been awarded. There is also \$800 million available from the State Water Resources Control Board for water quality improvements. There will be additional Prop 1 funding for SGMA implementation.
- How will grant funding be applied? If subbasins get a grant for disadvantaged communities, will those communities get the money or the whole group? Andrew replied that this is only one example of funds

available and the allocation of grant funding will be discussed as applicable. Amy Montgomery replied that Santa Nella County Water District acknowledges they may have to raise rates to cover SGMA work.

- What type of public outreach is required? Does the GSA have to contact every APN in the area, like a Prop 218 process? Lauren Layne replied that you may have to contact every APN if you do raise a fee under Prop 218 for the GSA. Kirsten Pringle described SGMA requirements for public outreach, like public hearings and a comment period on the GSP. SGMA also requires GSAs to reach out to stakeholders and lists types of stakeholder you have to reach out to, but does not specify how you have to conduct the outreach.

7. Close Public Hearing

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

8. Steering Committee to Consider Public Comments Received

The Steering Committee received the comments and responses described above and at the Merced County hearing, including responses offered by Steering Committee Members. There was no further discussion.

9. Steering Committee to Consider Authorizing Formation of Central Delta-Mendota Region and Naming Person Authorized to Submit GSA Notice of Intent to DWR

On the following motion of Steering Committee Member Amy Montgomery; “The Central Delta-Mendota Subbasin Multi-Agency Groundwater Sustainability Agency is comprised of 11 local agencies that are eligible to be GSAs pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) and have entered into an agreement to become a multi-agency GSA. The Central Delta-Mendota Subbasin Multi-Agency Groundwater Sustainability Agency’s Steering Committee held a properly noticed public hearing on March 9, 2017, at Santa Nella County Water District in Merced County and a continued public hearing on March 13, 2017, at Tranquillity Irrigation District in Fresno County. As such, the Central Delta-Mendota Subbasin Multi-Agency Groundwater Sustainability Agency hereby elects to become a GSA and

undertake sustainable groundwater management in the portion of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin underlying the boundaries of its 11 member agencies. Mr. Garcia and staff at the San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority are authorized to submit on behalf of the Central Delta-Mendota Subbasin Multi-Agency Groundwater Sustainability Agency notification of its election to be a GSA. Such notification shall include: (i) the boundaries of the Subbasin that the Central Delta-Mendota Subbasin Multi-Agency Groundwater Sustainability Agency intends to manage and all necessary documentation requested by DWR” seconded by Randall Miles, the Steering Committee approved the motion.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Miles, Reeves, Barcellos, Cadena, McGahan, Montgomery, Wade,
Ramirez
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

10. Opportunity for Public Comment for Items not on the agenda

No comments on non-agenda items.

11. Adjourn Steering Committee Meeting

The date of the next regular steering committee meeting is to be determined. Andrew Garcia will send out a calendar poll to determine a regular meeting date, with the location to be rotated at various member agency offices.