

**MINUTES OF THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY MEETING  
HELD FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020 AT 8:30 A.M.**

The *San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Exchange Contractors GSA)* met on Friday, March 6, 2020 at the *San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority's* office located at 541 "H" Street, City of Los Banos, County of Merced, State of California. The following persons were present:

**Central California Irrigation District (CCID):**

James O'Banion, Chair; Jarrett Martin, Manager

**San Luis Canal Company (SLCC):**

James Nickel, Director; John Wiersma, Manager

**Firebaugh Canal Water District (FCWD):**

Mike Stearns, Director; Jeff Bryant, Manager

**Columbia Canal Company (CCC):**

Kimberly Brown, Vice-Chair; Randy Houk, Manager

**STAFF MEMBERS:**

Chris White, Executive Director; Steve Chedester, Director of Policy & Programs; Joann White, Director of Finance and Administration; and Adam Hoffman, Water Resources Specialist

**PRESENT:**

Dr. Kenneth D. Schmidt, Consultant (via teleconference); Chris Cardella, CCC Director; David Cory, Consultant; Eric Ruckdaschel, Landowner; Andy Neal, Woodard & Curran (arrived 8:55 a.m.); Darcy Villere, FCWD Director (arrived 8:55 a.m.); and Kim Ford, King Ranch (arrived 8:55 a.m.)

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson O'Banion called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked Chris Cardella to lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Director White requested a change to Agenda item 9), noting that Board action will be required.

Director Stearns made a motion to change Agenda Item 9) adding that "Board action will be required." The motion was seconded by Director Nickel and unanimously passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Executive Director presented the unapproved minutes from the December 13, 2019 Exchange Contractors GSA meeting. A motion was made by Director Nickel and seconded by Director Brown to approve the minutes as mailed. The motion was unanimously carried.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

There were no public comments presented.

**BOARD TO APPROVE DECEMBER, 2019 AND JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2020 EXPENDITURES:**

Upon presentation of the Expenditure Lists for December 2019 and January - February 2020, a motion was made by Director Brown to approve the Expenditure Lists. The motion was seconded by Director Stearns and unanimously approved.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Joann White gave the GSA financial update by initially providing an end of the year report for 2019 explaining that as of December 31, 2019, revenue was 50% of budget with expenses at 135% of budget. She then continued to review the January - February, 2020 financial information that included the Budget Comparison and Cash Activity Report.

Director Nickel made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Stearns and passed unanimously.

The December 2, 2019 Finance Committee minutes were included for informational purposes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-01 – RESOLUTION TO ADOPT ANNUAL STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY:**

Executive Director White presented the Resolution to Adopt the Annual Statement of Investment Policy.

Director Stearns made a motion to approve Resolution No. 20-01, Adopt Annual Statement of Investment Policy and Guidelines. The motion was seconded by Director Brown and passed unanimously.

**STATUS OF GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AND SUBBASIN COORDINATION EFFORTS:**

Manager Martin reported that staff is working on the Annual Report with Dr. Kenneth Schmidt drafting the analysis. Once completed, the final draft will be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by April 1, 2020. The Exchange Contractors Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) has been submitted to and posted by DWR, with the public comment period open until April 15<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Schmidt is finalizing his analysis on wells in the lower

aquifer, and staff will be verifying that the wells are still active. Once that is determined, Dr. Schmidt will then provide recommendations for monitoring the wells. Although it should not affect us directly, Manager Martin reported that Madera Subbasin had not signed a Coordination Agreement and we will continue to monitor this matter on a regional level.

**ANNUAL GROUNDWATER REPORT/DRAFT SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT ANNUAL REPORT:**

In introducing Dr. Kenneth Schmidt, Jarrett Martin provided a brief review of the process regarding the groundwater analysis report that was developed.

Dr. Schmidt presented his analysis of the 2019 well pumping program which covered each of the member entities separately, along with the conditions in the various sub-areas within the Exchange Contractors' service area and the current conditions of the area's groundwater aquifers. The report also included management recommendations.

In concluding, Manager Wiersma acknowledged Manager Martin and CCID's staff on their expertise and coordination in obtaining the data.

The Executive Director recommended that all of the reports provided by Dr. Schmidt be combined and included into the GSA Annual Report that will be submitted to DWR and request the Board to approve the draft Report contingent on approval by each of the member entity boards.

Director Stearns made a motion to approve the proposed GSP Annual Report with the inclusion of the groundwater studies prepared by Dr. Schmidt contingent on each of the member entity's board's approval. The motion was seconded by Director Brown and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

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JAMES O'BANION, CHAIR

Attest a true record of proceedings had  
And taken at the foregoing meeting, our  
Presence thereat and our consent thereto.

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CHRIS WHITE, SECRETARY

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KIMBERLY BROWN, VICE-CHAIR

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JAMES NICKEL, DIRECTOR

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MIKE STEARNS, DIRECTOR