

**MINUTES OF THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY MEETING  
HELD FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023 AT 8:30 A.M.**

The *San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Exchange Contractors GSA)* met on Friday, November 10, 2023 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):**

Eric Fontana, Director

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

John Wiersma, General Manager

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

Jeff Bryant, General Manager/Alternate Director

**Columbia Canal Company (CCC):**

Kimberly Brown, Chair; Mike Gardner, General 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:**

David Cory, Consultant

The following person(s) participated via Conference Call:

Andrew McClure, Minasian Law, and Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock & Jensen

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Kimberly Brown called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked Eric Fontana to lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair then introduced and welcomed Mike Gardner, the new General Manager for Columbia Canal Company. General Manager Gardner thanked her for the introduction and expressed his appreciation to be a part of the Exchange Contractors.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The unapproved minutes from the September 1, 2023 Exchange Contractors GSA meeting were presented. A motion was made by Director Fontana and seconded by Alternate Director Bryant to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Introductions of those attending the meeting in person, along with those on the phone was accomplished. There were no public comments presented following the introductions.

**BOARD TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2023 EXPENDITURES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Joann White referred to the Expenditure List outlining the months of September and October 2023. She then reviewed the Financial Memo comprising of the Budget Summary and Cash Activity Report for the two months. A motion was made by Director Fontana and seconded by Alternate Director Bryant to approve the Financial Report as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

**DRAFT PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET:**

The Executive Director provided a review of the proposed 2024 Draft Budget, explaining that the involvement in the development of the revised Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is the major driver for the anticipated expenses in 2024. Upon some discussion, Mr. White said that the activities and costs will be closely monitored to determine if a reduction in the quarterly dues would be warranted later in the year.

A motion was made by Director Fontana and seconded by Alternate Director Bryant to accept the 2024 Draft Budget as proposed for submission to the member entity boards for their adoption and then brought back to the GSA Board in December for ratification. The motion was unanimously carried.

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

Manager Wiersma said that the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee is focusing on subsidence and water levels, noting that they have received positive feedback from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff on these two levels. Still working through the water quality issue and increasing outreach efforts relative to this. He then reported that the SWRCB Vice-Chair D’Adamo participated in a tour of areas within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin in September and another site visit is scheduled for two other board members in mid-November. The next Coordination Committee meeting is scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup> and they will be asked to take action on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in order to move forward with a single GSP. If approved, the MOA will be brought back to the member entity boards for approval. Consultant Cory suggested that there should be some efforts in coordinating with the coalitions under the Irrigation Lands Program.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

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KIMBERLY BROWN, 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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ERIC FONTANA, DIRECTOR

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JEFF BRYANT, ALTERNATE DIRECTOR