

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

The *San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Exchange Contractors GSA)* met on Friday, December 8, 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; Jarrett Martin, General Manager

San Luis Canal Company (SLCC):

James Nickel, Director; John Wiersma, General Manager

Firebaugh Canal Water District (FCWD):

Mike Stearns, Director; Jeff Bryant, General Manager

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:

Andrew McClure, Minasian Law, and David Cory, Consultant

The following person(s) participated via Conference Call:

Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock & Jensen, and Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Kimberly Brown called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked Jarrett Martin to lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW OF THE AGENDA:

The Executive Director stated that there were no changes proposed to the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The unapproved minutes from the November 10, 2023 Exchange Contractors GSA meeting were presented. A motion was made by Director Fontana and seconded by Director Stearns to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Introductions of those attending via teleconference were provided. Rick Iger of Provost & Pritchard informed the Board that their firm had been contacted by the City of Los Banos to assist with monitoring wells and would keep them informed of the progress of the new Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development. The Executive Director confirmed that he had received similar information from the city relating to this matter.

BOARD TO APPROVE NOVEMBER 2023 EXPENDITURES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Joann White referred to the Expenditure List outlining the month of November 2023 and provided a brief review. Upon completion, she next summarized her Financial Memo comprising of the Budget Summary and Cash Activity Report for the previous month. A motion was made by Director Fontana and seconded by Director Stearns to approve the Financial Report as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET:

The Executive Director explained that three of the four member entities approved the proposed 2024 Budget; with the remaining entity meeting later this month to act on the matter.

A motion was made by Director Stearns and seconded by Director Nickel to approve the proposed 2024 Budget contingent on final approval by CCC. The motion was unanimously carried.

BOARD TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AMONG THE DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES:

The Executive Director explained that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) lays out the governance for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin's Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA's) to develop a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The participation costs percentage under the MOA would be shared equally one-seventh (1/7) by each of the participants.

BOARD TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A SPECIAL PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A SINGLE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN:

Mr. White then referred to the next document, "Special Project Agreement," which purpose will be to provide a contractual basis to allow for coordinated access to various resources needed to develop the GSP. It also calls out the cost percentages to be shared by the various GSA's which is

included as Exhibit B, noting that the projected costs for developing the single GSP by EKI Environment and Water, Inc. are \$1.4M.

BOARD TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FIRST AMENDED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS GSA AND PARTNERING GSA'S WITH RESPECT TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT IN A PORTION OF THE DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN:

The third agreement being considered would be between the Exchange Contractors GSA and the partnering GSA's consisting of Cities of Newman, Gustine, Los Banos, Dos Palos, Firebaugh, and Mendota, Turner Island Water District, and Counties of Merced, Madera and Fresno. The MOA would allow the Exchange Contractors GSA to represent the partner GSA's on the Coordination Committee. The partner GSA's would have the opportunity to review the draft GSP but the Coordination Committee is solely at the discretion of the Exchange Contractors GSA. In conclusion, Mr. White said that the draft MOU will be used as a template for each of the partner GSA's, and the costs associated to the partnering GSA will be 1% each of the Exchange Contractors' GSA invoiced share.

A motion was made by Director Stearns and seconded by Director Fontana to approve the three proposed Agreements as proposed. The motion was unanimously approved.

Both Chair Brown and Executive Director White expressed their appreciation to Managers Martin and Wiersma for their continued efforts during this extensive process.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 a.m.

KIMBERLY BROWN, CHAIR

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

CHRIS WHITE, SECRETARY

ERIC FONTANA, DIRECTOR

JAMES NICKEL, DIRECTOR

MIKE STEARNS, DIRECTOR