

**MINUTES OF THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY MEETING  
HELD FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024 AT 8:30 A.M.**

The *San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Exchange Contractors GSA)* met on Friday, November 1, 2024 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):**

Cannon Michael, Director; John Wiersma, General Manager

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

Jeff Bryant, Alternate Director/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:**

David Cory, Consultant; and Chase Hurley, Pacheco Water District

The following person(s) participated via Conference Call:

Andrew McClure, Minasian Law; Mike Stearns, FCWD; Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock & Jensen; and Antonio Solorio, Westlands Water District

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Kimberly Brown called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked Director Fontana 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 August 2, 2024 San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors GSA meeting were presented. A motion was made by Director Fontana and seconded by Director Michael to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Introductions by those attending in person and via teleconference were provided.

**BOARD TO APPROVE AUGUST – OCTOBER 2024 EXPENDITURES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Joann White presented the Expenditure List comprising of the expenses from August through October 2024. Following, a review of her Financial Report was provided highlighting the Budget Comparison and Cash Activity Report.

A motion was made by Director Michael and seconded by Director Fontana to approve the Financial Report as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

**PROPOSED 2025 DRAFT BUDGET:**

The Executive Director referred to the 2025 Draft Budget and said that the Finance Committee had reviewed the information and recommended approval. He added that at this time, there are many unknowns, first, how the State Water Resources Control Board is going to address the recently submitted single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), and second, the Delta-Mendota Subbasin has yet to approve their budget. He is recommending revisiting the budget following the payment of the first quarter dues to determine if any adjustments will be necessary and bring it back to the Board at that time. Manager Wiersma commented that the financial role by the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin may change, and they are currently working through that issue.

Mr. White also provided an update on the current cash flow versus expenses through the end of the year. He said that based on that, it was determined that fourth quarter dues would not be warranted.

A recommendation was next made by the Executive Director for the Board to take the proposed budget to the home boards for approval and bring it back at next month's Board meeting for ratification.

A motion was made by Director Michael and seconded by Director Fontana approving the Executive Director's recommendation to present the proposed budget to each of the member entity's board for approval and bring it back for Board ratification in December. The motion was unanimously approved.

**DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN SINGLE GROUINDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (GSP) – UPDATE:**

Manager Martin reported that the SLDMWA's Program Manager for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin is retiring and as mentioned previously, SLDMWA is transitioning from the financial role on behalf of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. They are working through this process. He next stated that they met with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to review the "red flag" review of the draft single GSP. They plan to schedule a workshop after Thanksgiving holiday to

walk through some outstanding components. They continue to work on the pumping reduction plan. As of now, the SWRCB hearing has been pushed back to the second quarter of 2025. Lastly, Mr. Martin stated that a tour with SWRCB Member Firestone and staff has been scheduled for mid-November.

The Executive Director recapped the action taken by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors at a recent meeting he attended.

Attorney Lauren Layne said they are making progress and appreciated the time and effort provided by Managers Martin and Wiersma.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Legal Counsel McClure provided an update on the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) case.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 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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CANNON MICHAEL, DIRECTOR

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JEFF BRYANT, ALTERNATE DIRECTOR