

**MINUTES OF THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY MEETING
HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024 AT 8:30 A.M.**

The *San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Exchange Contractors GSA)* met on Friday, December 13, 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):

Jarrett Martin, Alternate Director/General Manager

San Luis Canal Company (SLCC):

Cannon Michael, 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; Chris Cardella, CCC Director; David Cory, Consultant

The following person(s) participated via Conference Call:

Eric Fontana, CCID Director; Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard (8:36 a.m.); and Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock & Jensen (8:40 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Kimberly Brown called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked Manager Wiersma 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 1, 2024 San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors GSA meeting were presented. A motion was made by Alternate Director Martin 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 NOVEMBER 2024 EXPENDITURE LIST AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

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

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

PROPOSED 2025 DRAFT BUDGET:

The Executive Director reported that each of the member entity boards had approved the draft 2025 Budget and is recommending ratification by the Board. He stated that the first quarter dues will be invoiced on January 1st, and then recapped that the budget amount is based on estimates and will be updated once the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Committee adopts their budget in February 2025. At that time, they will revisit the budget and reassess.

A motion was made by Director Michael and seconded by Director Stearns to approve the 2025 Budget. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

Manager Wiersma provided an outline of the recent changes to the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Committee. He said upon receiving the City of Patterson’s approval as signatory to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors GSA would only have one seat on the committee. Manager Martin will now act as an alternate member, and he will remain as the committee chair. This will also affect the cost share by each of the agencies, thus decreasing the costs for the SJREC GSA.

Regarding the draft GSP, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff draft report has not been received. Meanwhile, they continue to work with the SWRCB staff to address outstanding issues. They are also focused on drafting the Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP).

Manager Martin said that because of the delay in receiving the staff report, the hearing will likely take place around the first part of the third quarter in 2025. He reiterated that this has provided them more time to work through the “red flag” comments provided by staff.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Legal Counsel McClure recapped the status of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) case explaining that the Judge extended the stay for another year. Plaintiffs can file a Motion for Leave to File Amended Complaint, but nothing has been filed to date.

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

JARRETT MARTIN, ALTERNATE DIRECTOR

CANNON MICHAEL, DIRECTOR

MIKE STEARNS, DIRECTOR