



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P. O. BOX 1810

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA, 95201

TELEPHONE (209) 468-3000

FAX NO. (209) 468-2999

MICHAEL SELLING
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION

February 18, 2015, 1:00 p.m.

Public Health Conference Room, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California

AGENDA

Roll Call

Approve Minutes for the Meeting of November 19, 2014

SCHEDULED ITEMS

I. Discussion Items:

- A. Presentation on the Water Investigation Zone No. 2 Successor Effort (See Attached) – Brandon Nakagawa, Public Works / Dennis Anderson, Harris and Associates
- B. Update on Senate Bill 5 Compliance Efforts – John Maguire
- C. Presentation on Fall 2014 Groundwater Monitoring Program – Gerardo Dominguez
- D. Presentation on Groundwater Sustainability Act Discussions (See Attached) – Brandon Nakagawa
- E. Update on 2014 Drought Activities – Brandon Nakagawa

II. Action Items:

- A. No Action Items

III. Communications (See Attached):

- A. February 12, 2015, Recordnet.com, “San Joaquin County’s Underground Supply Sinks Toward 1992 Low Point”.
- B. February 5, 2015, “Implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: Local Governance Approaches and Considerations Workshop”.
- C. February 4, 2015, Lodi News Sentinel, “San Joaquin County, Water District Hope to Recharge Area’s Groundwater”.
- D. January 27, 2015, Recordnet.com, “Water Managers Propose Emergency Actions After Driest January on Record”.

Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: March 18, 2015, 1:00 p.m.
Public Health Conference Room

Commission may make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on any listed item.

If you need disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact the Water Resource Staff at (209) 468-3089 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Any materials related to items on this agenda distributed to the Commissioners less than 72 hours before the public meeting are available for public inspection at Public Works Dept. Offices located at the following address: 1810 East Hazelton Ave., Stockton, CA 95205. These materials are also available at <http://www.sjwater.org>. Upon request these materials may be made available in an alternative format to persons with disabilities.

**REPORT FOR THE MEETING OF
THE ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
November 19, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Advisory Water Commission of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, November 19, 2014, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at Public Health Services, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California.

Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Nomellini, Flinn, Elliott, Herrick, Holbrook, Salazar, Hartman, Secretary Nakagawa, and Chairman McGurk. Others present are listed on the Attendance Sheet. The Commission had a quorum.

Approval of Minutes for the Meeting(s) of September 17, 2014.

Motion and second to approve the minutes of September 17, 2014 as amended. Unanimously approved.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

Fritz Buchman, Deputy Director/Development SJC Public Works Department, led the agenda.

I. Discussion Items:

A. Update on 2014 Drought Management Activities – Brandon Nakagawa

Mr. Nakagawa circulated *Weather Focus Vol. 5 Issue 1*, a newsletter authored by Dr. C. Mel Lytle, Ph.D., City of Stockton Municipal Utilities Department Director. It is forecasted, "With current reservoir conditions, in the best of situations, the State will need precipitation amounts well above normal just to bring the reservoirs back to average." Particular conditions that were not apparent last winter have been observed and may increase the potential for precipitation this winter but just how much and when is difficult to establish.

San Joaquin County Public Works Department is continuing its efforts to saturate residents with water conservation messaging. Residents have been exposed to messaging in print and radio ads dispensing water saving tips that will remain applicable as the seasons change. The County's efforts are being complemented with water conservation messaging from the City of Stockton, California Water Service Company, and Stockton Area Water Suppliers water conservation programs.

Commissioner Herrick provided an update on the State Water Resources Control Board curtailments. On May 27, 2014, the State Water Board issued curtailment notices to all post-1914 appropriative water right holders in the Sacramento-San Joaquin, Russian, and Eel River watersheds. The State Water Resources Control Board, working with the Department of Water Resources, determined whether, when, and where notices to curtail water diversion and use would be sent. Water right holders were required to respond to the notices to confirm that they have stopped water diversions. Failure to have complied with the curtailment notice could hold the water right holder subject to an Administrative Civil Liability complaint, which could include monetary penalties, or the matter could possibly be referred to the Attorney General's Office for action.

Commissioner Herrick reported the State Water Resources Control Board plans to temporarily lift curtailments during significant storm events to capture new precipitation and advises water right holders monitor the State Water Board's email notices and/or website to take advantage of these temporary actions.

Commissioners Herrick and Nomellini led a continued discussion of the history of notices of water availability (curtailment and emergency regulations) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Mr. Nakagawa informed the Commission Mountain House Community Service District is probably the most susceptible to drought in the County. The Governor's Drought Emergency declaration may result in the diversion of water from the Delta, which is the sole source of the MHCSD's supply of water being provided to it by Byron-Bethany Irrigation District. During the Mountain House Board of Director's, July 25th meeting, a Stage 3 Water Shortage Emergency was initiated. This requires that all residents immediately begin reducing water consumption by 20% from last year (per billing cycle) usage. In recent communications with Mountain House General Manager, year to year water savings have shown a 25% reduction, reflecting drought messaging and water saving measures are being observed.

B. Presentation on the Water Investigation Zone No. 2 Successor Effort – Brandon Nakagawa

An update was provided for the Water Investigation Successor Effort, Zone No. 2. In 2000, The Zone No. 2 Assessment was approved for a 15-year duration which ends on June 30, 2015. Water Investigation Zone No. 2 was designated as an investigation zone for the purpose of fulfilling the objectives of the Board of Supervisor's Strategic Plan to Meet Water Needs by funding the coordination of staff, special counsel, special consultants and performance of special studies. The funding provided by Zone No. 2 is approximately \$1.3 million. The Successor Effort is funded by the assessment. An agreement for consulting services with Harris & Associates, Inc. has been obtained. The Department of Public Works general approach to extend or raise special taxes, assessments, and fees to provide specific services and benefit is to educate affected stakeholders and gain broad-based support for the required increase.

Over the next several months, staff will be working steadfast with consultants, Harris and Associates, Inc. to conduct stakeholder interviews and obtain feedback on whether and how Zone No. 2 may continue, the process by which the public will be engaged and recommendations for how future funding should be sought (via a full vote by the public or protest hearing).

C. Update on GBA Proposition 84 Drought Grant Application and CASGEM Program – Brandon Nakagawa

Mr. Nakagawa expressed disappointment as he reported that the GBA Proposition 84 Grant Application was disqualified due to non-compliance with CASGEM Requirement. Staff have been diligently working over the past couple of years to obtain designation as a California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring agency by regularly supplying requested information to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). With each submission, additional information has been requested and the bar is continuously raised higher. Staff from DWR and Public Works have met and will continue to meet until the DWR requested information is clearly delineated. One obstacle in becoming CASGEM compliant is the release of proprietary well information held in confidence between the well owner and well driller. Well owners would

need to formally authorize the release of well information that both the County and DWR already have in existing monitoring records before this information can be shared legally in the public arena. Current law prohibits the State or County to release such information without the well owners' active consent.

To overcome this challenge, Mr. Nakagawa reported that letters were being drafted and following review and approval, would be sent to well owners to authorize the release of information as it relates to the general location of the well as well as depth and screening interval. This information along with the approval of the total number of wells in the County and wells within a certain number of square miles (6-8 per 100 square miles) are required to become compliant with CASGEM standards and achieve designation as a monitoring agency, which is required to be eligible for Proposition 84 grant funding. The consent form was provided to the Commission for approval. The Commission will be kept informed as this process moves forward.

D. Update on Groundwater Management Reform Legislation – Brandon Nakagawa

Mr. Nakagawa reported Governor Brown signed a three-bill legislative package, known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act on September 16, 2014, to be effective on January 1, 2015. The legislation requires the formation of new local groundwater sustainability agencies responsible for establishing long-term locally-based groundwater management plan. The legislation also provides for state intervention. Supporters maintain that the legislation provides a framework for locally-controlled sustainable groundwater management. Opponents have cited concerns that the legislation is overly broad and will negatively affect the agricultural economy. Mr. Nakagawa stated the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act falls short in principal of the Groundwater Management Reform Policy Statement adopted by San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors.

To be noted, on August 22, 2014, California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) dropped opposition to AB 1739 (Dickinson) and SB 1168 (Pavley) as a result of AB 1739 being amended to address concerns with: Water Code Section 10726.4(a)(2).

Mr. Nakagawa brought to the attention of the Commission that future discussions on groundwater management may center on addressing the role of the Eastern Groundwater Basin Authority and the Advisory Water Commission in regards to defining a groundwater sustainability agency. Challenges arise when addressing coordination with the Eastern basin crossing into Stanislaus County Calaveras County and parts of the Delta. The County itself crosses 3 sub basins. Discussions with the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin Authority have begun at the local level to take up these issues.

E. Update on Efforts to Combat Invasive Weeds in the Delta – Brandon Nakagawa

Mr. Nakagawa shared the recent meetings in which staff has been involved alongside the Board of Supervisors to communicate the extent of the invasive weeds issue, its local impacts, and obtain funding with grant partners to study and address the issue. Commissioner Hartman commented on the widespread presence and detrimental local impact of the hyacinth. He recognizes local efforts and challenged those involved to seek short term as well as long term solutions.

II. Action Items:

None.

III. Communications (See Attached):

- A. November 3, 2014, Mother Nature Network, “California Drought is Driving Depletion of Irreplaceable Groundwater”.
- B. October 29, 2014, AgAlert, “Groundwater: Local Entities Start to Discuss Implementation”.
- C. October 8, 2014, Recordnet.com, “Water Use Continues to Decline – But By How Much?”.

Public Comment:

None.

Possible Future Agenda Items: None.

Adjournment: 2: p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: December 17, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by CGM

ATTACHMENT
I.A.

stakeholder interview report

San Joaquin County Water Investigation Zone 2

Date: 01/13/15

To: Brandon Nakagawa and Lynn Hoffman, Department of Public Works, FCWCD

Prepared by: Joyce Vollmer, MIG and Judith Buethe, Buethe Communications

Summary

Judith Buethe conducted 13 interviews in December 2014 and January 2015, with the following people:

California Water Service, John Freeman, General Manager
Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District, Reid Roberts
Escalon Public Works, Juston Collins, Superintendent
Lathrop Public Works, Patrick Flynn, Director
Lodi Public Works, Wally Sandelin, Director
Manteca Public Works, Mark Houghton, Director
Mountain House CSD, Nader Shareghi, Director
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, Tom Flinn
Ripon Public Works, Ted Johnson, Director
San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation, Bruce Blodgett, Director
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors (Retired), Ken Vogel
Stockton MUD, Mel Lytle, Director, and Bob Granberg, Asst. Dir.
Tracy MUD, Steve Bailey, Project Specialist

Members of the Groundwater Basin Authority and Advisory Water Committee were of course quite well informed about Zone 2. Other Public Works and MUD Directors were not as well informed and were a little embarrassed by that. The consensus is that Zone 2 conducts valuable work and should be continued, along with a fee to pay for it—at as close to the current assessment as possible. However, there is also agreement that most staff and elected officials will not be familiar with Zone 2, and the general public knows nothing about it, despite the assessment being on their property tax bills. Most interviewed recommended the County use a property-related fee with a majority protest procedure, perhaps a hybrid of sending a protest form and envelope, although there was not agreement on that aspect. All agree the County should begin a community education campaign.

Recommendations

The next step will likely be to shape the program and budget, and determine the potential fees. At that point, we recommend developing a fact sheet for staff and elected officials (perhaps those in the first and second concentric circles) about Zone 2, the program after June 2015, the fee and methodology for determining fee levels, as well as the procedure chosen to implement the fee.

stakeholder interview report

San Joaquin County Water Investigation Zone 2

We will then broaden the stakeholder interviews and conduct a telephone survey to help determine the level of understanding and the types of key information the community needs. We will also test fee sensitivity and best messengers. With the results of that research, we recommend developing a fact sheet for the community, Speakers Kit (key messages, FAQ, fact sheets) for those who talk with constituents and the media, information for your website, press release and backgrounder, etc.

Verbatims

Below are excerpts from interviews, randomized from the order of the list above. However, the person identified by number is consistent amongst all the questions to give you a sense of how each person responded.

1. Most members of the water community in San Joaquin County are aware of water issues. Do you think the general public has heard of or is aware of Water Investigation Zone No. 2 and what it is designed to achieve?

- 1) No.
- 2) No.
- 3) No.
- 4) No.
- 5) What is it? No.
- 6) No.
- 7) No.
- 8) Aware of water issues, but not Zone 2.
- 9) No.
- 10) No.
- 11) No
- 12) No they do not.
- 13) No.

2. If you were talking with your neighbor, how would you describe what Zone 2 is and what it does?

- 1) Relatively simple. GBA is implementing.
- 2) Farmers generally “get it.” Many see the groundwater table going down. Understand the problem. But the connection between Zone 2 and the issue is unknown. The County needs to focus on those who understand it.
- 3) Would have to research.
- 4) Wouldn't.
- 5) Cannot do so.
- 6) Can't!
- 7) It is a way everyone contributes a bit of money to spread the investment in planning and building water projects. Fifteen years. It is not composed of concrete and rebar but rather of planning, coordinating, and getting everyone on the same page.
- 8) Wouldn't be talking with neighbors about Zone 2.
- 9) Can't.

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- 10) Do not have enough information to do so.
- 11) Would not have adequate information to provide, no actual knowledge about Water Investigation Zone #2.
- 12) Zone 2 provides support for activities associated with flooding and other issues, with the county working together within the county and other agencies. I would tie water supply and flood control as two parts of the same equation. It is good to tie them together.
- 13) It is a public agency that addresses community water issues and needs in San Joaquin County.

3. Can you point to 2-3 most important achievements for Zone 2 in the past five years or so?

- 1) Settlement agreement: a) link with EBMUD, b) Farmington recharge project, and c) raise Pardee dam.
- 2) Zone 2 primarily created a strong relationship between water entities in the County. It has been and is important to have that bond. Henry (Hirata) and George Barber should get primary credit for that. It has resulted in getting the community together, planning, a general better understanding of issues, and a better job of advocating to other agencies and organizations, team building, and outreach. There is no specific project at this point, but there is more support. One result is the recent agreement with EBMUD for a groundwater demonstration project. That is a major accomplishment!
- 3) No.
- 4) No.
- 5) No.
- 6) No.
- 7) The organization and funding of the GBA is one product. Also, IRWMP, a document that helps secure grant money from the state for water development.
- 8) No.
- 9) Can't.
- 10) No.
- 11) No.
- 12) Not offhand. They are related to different things. One that should be mentioned is the establishment of requirements for levees, as being very important.
- 13) Yes: 1. It has provided a major integrated water plan, 2. It oversees receipt of water grants from various agencies, and 3. It has continued the development of cohesive, county water positions on various issues in the area.

4. Zone 2 currently has six goals. How well do you think the goals are being met?

- 1) Pretty good. Ambitious. The County is chipping away and showing success in meeting goals.
- 2) Continuous work is being done to meet the goals, e.g., South Delta water quality issues and planning. Developing finances for a project would be good to do. We need to go southwest to sweeten the pot for the Tracy area, as we struggle to engage them. [Got their own water supplies.] SSJID and SEWD. The worst has been the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District. Positive for North San Joaquin perspective—good to see bigger agencies acknowledge the need. North San Joaquin's biggest problem is that it has done the least to help themselves, due to a lack of resources. It's nice to see other agencies recognize the problem and try to help.
- 3) Great goals that are being met well in Escalon.

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- 4) Don't know.
- 5) Good effort. The GBA meetings are moving the County and its local entities in the right direction.
- 6) They seem to be meeting the goals.
- 7) The first three listed are getting more focus than Goals 4 – 6. They have seen no financial progress. No. 6 is making some progress.
- 8) Unknown.
- 9) Need more information.
- 10) No idea.
- 11) #1 and #2 are doing well.
 - #3. Southwest County is regarded as the forgotten corner of the county.
 - #4. Unsure about water quality and concerns.
 - #5. Good work with groundwater issues in east county.
 - #6. Tracy gets no benefit from the county in management of the water table. Don't really want any or a need to count on them to do anything. Generally, the county regards depleted groundwater in and around Stockton and east county as a problem for them to be concerned with.
- 12) The county is doing a very good job of meeting all the goals, especially with the involvement of the GBA, working with SJAFCFA and EBMUD.
- 13) It has been a good sounding board and represents various interests in the area. I would give them a 7 or 8 rating out of 10 possible. It's only as good as the people on it being willing to bring up and discuss issues. (I'm a hard grader, too!)

5. Should anything be added or changed, new or different goals? What about the structure of Zone 2—anything you'd like to see changed?

- 1) Address within Zone #2 stricter needs to emphasize new state law regarding groundwater management. Goals and objectives? Need to look at them in the reality of global warming.
- 2) A County-wide perspective. We must include the Tracy area. The new state legislation on groundwater banking will be a big force in driving the organization in the future. Need to pivot around. Farmers do get it and are very concerned, especially the big farmers. Cities are struggling with how to outreach to their people and the structures organized around that. Nothing specific needs to be changed. There is concern about taking on capital projects. Need to steer away from capital projects and make those separate assessments.
- 3) Always up for change, but would need to research before making a specific recommendation.
- 4) Unfamiliar with it. [Reference to five SSJID water wells.]
- 5) Zone 2 needs to be defined. The six goals are comprehensive and good goals. We've got lots to do on those. The County's participation in the groundwater regulatory front may need to be quantified or identified.
- 6) Nothing that would diminish or degrade the water quality of the basin. We need to enhance the water quality.
- 7) Zone 2 can't build things. It is a planning, coordinating agency.
- 8) Goals are fine as is.
- 9) Groundwater is becoming a bigger issue; the discussion (Zone 2) needs to continue.
- 10) Existing goals are good and are certainly positive goals.

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- 11) New groundwater sustainability legislation is going to require groundwater services agencies to be developed. How will San Joaquin County address pumping? That should be added to the goals.
- 12) Not offhand.
- 13) No. It has proven to be flexible to address issues that arise. We do not need any different representation or major changes.

6. What do you envision as the most appropriate roles for the County?

- 1) The County is the appropriate leader for administering Zone 2, as opposed to creating another water agency.
- 2) Dealing with groundwater issues. We need to work harder on this to protect water rights and get more water supplies. We need more groundwater banking with SE, and branch beyond to EBMUD. Our basis is both a problem and positive asset. We are at a crossroads point just now. We need to go beyond our County boundaries and think better.
- 3) Water conservation, water rights, and education.
- 4) Groundwater management—the primary manager of the County’s water supplies.
- 5) Leadership or support. Many interests are involved. It comes down to areas with significant water resources, where the County can play a support role. Other areas of interest need leadership. The eastern part of the County is still trying to get adequate water supplies, and the County has appropriately been involved in helping with this. Other areas are willing to have a County role but want support from the County, not have the County in the lead role.
- 6) Oversight and management of the basin.
- 7) The County can best function as the coordinator and provider of funding of the GBA, representing grant monies, groundwater legislation. Being a regional voice. It cannot fund projects but can focus on bringing the region together as one voice with the IRWMP, etc.
- 8) Managing water resources, ensuring that the water table does not drop, and controlling water use and possible contamination.
- 9) Groundwater issues. Monitoring those.
- 10) Facilitation. Encourage involvement of stakeholders.
- 11) Coordination is the most appropriate and the need to do some investigative work on a Countywide basis. Don’t stop at the boundaries of a district. Investigate and merge data to provide an overall plan. Don’t monitor in the west. It’s not fair where everyone pays the same in taxes.
- 12) The County needs to continue to be a leader in water issues, including flood control and bringing in more water, as well as working with the six irrigation districts and meeting their diverse needs, flood-wise, and in terms of their water supply needs. Also, the county needs to continue to work collaboratively with other Delta counties.
- 13) To maintain water supplies that we currently have and to be in the forefront for water policy in the county, also to be a sounding board for overall water issues in the area.

7. In your opinion, how does the general community perceive the value of having Zone 2?

- 1) General community does not perceive it.
- 2) They have no idea.

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- 3) General community is generally unaware.
- 4) General community is not informed.
- 5) They have no clue. For example, the Delta Conservation Plan. The public needs to be educated as to (a) the benefit to the County and its resources and (b) to the critical need to continue the effort to preserve, protect and area-of-origin rights.
- 6) It does not recognize the value.
- 7) If they knew it was there, the County would have support. People want supply and quality. The County has been there to help develop supply and quality, and people are generally supportive. The County needs to marry Zone 2 to that task. Without it, the County would not be playing the collaborative role. However, its collaborative activities have been huge in the last 15 years, e.g., San Joaquin Water supply, SSJID, Lodi, general coordination. That's the true value of the County working under Zone 2. Hundreds of millions of \$ of improvements have been made.
- 8) It does not.
- 9) General community is unaware.
- 10) General community is uninformed.
- 11) I have no idea! Now is a good time to educate the community about Zone 2. Has it been pre-approved? The general public usually supports water issues.
- 12) The general community does not know what Water Investigation Zone 2 is. We need to lay out the goals. The community is very likely to support them.
- 13) Probably 2-3 out of 10. The general public, other than being aware of Delta water issues, is probably not too knowledgeable about water issues throughout the county, unless in an agricultural district. City people are less likely to acknowledge specific issues, especially those that are regional.

8. Should funding for Zone 2 be renewed to maintain this service? If not, please explain.

- 1) Yes. It is worth a discussion to rethink the issue. The County's role is growing, particularly in the area of groundwater management.
- 2) Yes. Definitely!
- 3) Yes.
- 4) Unsure.
- 5) Yes. Do renew it; but, rename it. At present, the name sounds like a black box or the Bermuda Triangle.
- 6) Yes.
- 7) Yes. Goals, milestones, and products need to be clearly defined.
- 8) Ratepayers will be hesitant without knowing what has been accomplished thus far and the benefits.
- 9) Yes.
- 10) I assume the answer should be "Yes," but need more information to make a definitive statement.
- 11) Yes. But the County needs a good sales package!
- 12) Yes! Absolutely! If we lose the funding, we lose much of what has already been accomplished and what we do now. Funding sources are hard to find!
- 13) Yes.

9. If so, what do you think people might be willing to pay and why?

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- 1) No answer.
- 2) Not much more than today. We need to provide adequately for inflation, but keep it not much higher than today.
- 3) Unsure.
- 4) No answer.
- 5) If it is not raised, little resistance will emerge. The County is likely to experience resistance only if the rates are raised. Just maintain the status quo in rates.
- 6) Property taxes. Tough to make any changes.
- 7) First, educate them! Second, maintain the same level of cost to taxpayers.
- 8) People need to be educated to ensure awareness of the benefit gained.
- 9) Maintain the same level.
- 10) As little as possible with maximum benefit. Some landowners would react with a more positive reaction—those who understand the benefits. The average person's reaction is probably "No."
- 11) I have no idea.
- 12) We need to sustain funding at the current level or with a minimal increase. And, tie with supply to flood control.
- 13) Same as present assessment. We could hope for more but it's difficult to get any requests for tax dollars approved. It's best to just maintain the status quo.

10. Renewed funding for services provided through Zone 2 is permissible under California law, which distinguishes between water supply property-related fees and/or assessments. Pursuing a property-related fee to continue the current level of service allows for a protest hearing (passes unless 51% of property owners protest) vs. an assessment which requires an affirmative majority vote by property owners (only passes if 51% of property owners vote yes). Since the fee is related to water supply, only a protest hearing is required by law. Staff is recommending that Zone 2 be renewed as a property related fee; however, we would like to ask you a few questions about the value of the assessment process which seeks the affirmative approval from property owners and other mechanisms for approval such as a vote of the people (2/3 majority).

a. Given the descriptions above, do you have any questions or clarifications about the property-related fee, assessment or vote of the people processes?

- 1) No.
- 2) The public needs better understanding in general. This has tightened up since the last time around. Using a protest vote is easier.
- 3) No.
- 4) No.
- 5) It's confusing. To get a majority vote would require a significant effort. Stay on 218, with the majority protest version. That's the County's best shot at renewal/approval.
- 6) No.
- 7) Use whichever has the best chance of success.
- 8) The assessment.
- 9) Need more information. This is a complex issue.

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- 10) Reaching a 2/3 positive majority through a vote of the people is likely to be extremely difficult, regardless of the project benefits.
- 11) A vote of the people would be preferable, but a protest hearing is the safer way to go. A vote is the fairest way but not practical because of cost and other issues. A protest vote is the best but not as open a process.
- 12) No questions. The protest vote approach is a good one.
- 13) No questions but am familiar with it. It needs to proceed as has been done in the past.

b. Do you think there is value in having property owners affirmatively vote or oppose via ballot?

- 1) No.
- 2) A major protest has advantages—is best.
- 3) Yes
- 4) No comment
- 5) There is some value, but it's a huge undertaking to educate the public, a huge and expensive challenge.
- 6) Need to think about it.
- 7) This approach would require a huge educational, costly process. The County needs to go the protest route.
- 8) Yes.
- 9) Use the protest method.
- 10) There is value, but getting there is a problem: base it on acreage? Or by parcel? A tax based on acreage probably has a better chance than one based on parcels.
- 11) Absolutely! Open government!
- 12) There is value and Measure K did get a 2/3 vote. However, a protest hearing is the best procedure upon which to depend.
- 13) There may be value in it but it's risky.

c. Do you think there is value in putting Zone 2 up to a vote of the people vs. property owners?

- 1) No.
- 2) Going to property owners is preferable. They have more skin in the game.
- 3) Debatable, but “Yes.”
- 4) No comment.
- 5) A need benefit must be identified to get people to vote for it. The County will need a group to push it. A number of Delta-related groups are focused on preserving the Delta and could help. It requires a political strategy. People generally understand the water/drought-related issues, but this would have been easier to promote before rain started. An organized campaign would be required. Tie it to the drought is an option.
- 6) Just property owners.
- 7) Contra Costa County had a measure with an overall vote of the people to support water projects. It was successful, because specific projects were identified. Zone 2 is more nebulous. The County would need to provide a more detailed, project-oriented approach to go with a vote of the people. The protest vote approach is better.
- 8) Just property owners.
- 9) No. Just property owners.

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- 10) Can't make the call at this time, but assume it would be a "No!" Most people are going to be unaware of its existence.
- 11) Yes, but the safest way is a Prop. 218 hearing. (The right way, however, would be to ask for a vote of the people.)
- 12) Property owners would see the value of maintaining water supply and addressing flood control.
- 13) No.

d. Another possibility is a hybrid in which we supply a ballot/protest with NO on it, and a return envelope to make it easy for people to respond. That would still require a majority of all property owners saying "no" for the fee not to go forward in a protest hearing before the Board of Supervisors.

- 1) Yes. Reference to the Proposition 218 process. Would be lucky to get even a 5% protest.
- 2) Never heard of that.
- 3) Unsure.
- 4) No comment.
- 5) It's just an enhanced form of protest, which would provide more political cover for politicians.
- 6) No.
- 7) The County would have to mail out 296,000 ballots—a very expensive, costly approach
- 8) Respondent would be resistant to that approach.
- 9) OK.
- 10) Likely to get hung up with small parcel owners who may not see the benefit as directly as the larger agriculture-based landowners. Don't know.
- 11) Not recommended.
- 12) That NO approach would be very risky compared to an actual protest vote.
- 13) No. There would be more opportunity for an uneducated populace to say "No" but it's not the right way to go.

11. Who in the community do you think might be champions for renewal? Any major opponents?

Champions

- 1) Board of Supervisors, City Councils, boards and agencies, GBA. (A couple hundred people on these.)
- 2) Agricultural community, i.e., Farm Bureau, the cities, leadership within the cities and the Board of Supervisors. We need to recruit Larry Ruhstaller and Ken Vogel, who are known entities, to promote the renewal. Do all these. Talk to the Winegrowers Association. Talk to Jennifer Staletta, attorney for North San Joaquin County WCD, (209) 224-5568, to get the winegrowers' perspective.
- 3) Cities.
- 4) Need to educate people in government and leadership positions.
- 5) Delta groups. Water districts with resources. Local industry.
- 6) The County and its representatives.
- 7) Members of the GBA, water districts, Farm Bureau, agricultural districts, cities, Delta water agencies, City Councils.

stakeholder interview report

San Joaquin County Water Investigation Zone 2

- 8) Champions would likely be those entities needing water, requiring sustainability and continuance with present water supplies.
- 9) Unknown.
- 10) It's too soon to tell. Need much more outreach! All the irrigation districts need to be educated and fully engaged. For example, *San Joaquin Farm Bureau News* has never published a story about Zone
- 11) Board of Supervisors and County staff. Also recruit cities and water districts within the county to help.
- 12) Chambers of Commerce; other business groups; agricultural groups; especially property owners, in the zone subject to flooding; Delta Protection Commission; Poe of Stockton; developers, e.g., Grupe and Spanos.
- 13) Board of Supervisors; heads of various agencies that form the GBA.

Opponents

- 1) No major opponents anticipated.
- 2) When taxes are mentioned, there are always opponents.
- 3) No major opponents anticipated.
- 4) Unsure.
- 5) Unknown.
- 6) None at this point in time. Perhaps the Taxpayers Association.
- 7) Taxpayer organizations. NGOs (no-growth opponents), Southern California interests.
- 8) Unsure. Could include the BIA.
- 9) Unknown.
- 10) Unknown.
- 11) Anti-tax people.
- 12) Taxpayers Association, e.g., Dave Renison; California Jarvis anti-tax group
- 13) Taxpayer groups.

General Comments

- 1) Zone 2 assists in providing economic stability and viability to our County. Reference to "MOKE-wise consortium which is trying to identify/evaluate the Mokelumne Watershed Integrated Program, including sustainability issues. MOKE-wise is a consortium of water agencies in the County and is working to expand storage or use the Mokelumne River to help solve groundwater issues and protect/maintain current water supplies, keep the state from creating a new water supply source. Includes agencies outside the County, e.g., Sierra Club, Delta Fly-fishing Association, California Sport Fishing Alliance, Amador County, and Calaveras County.
- 2) None
- 3) None
- 4) If there is a connection between Water Zone #2 and the City of Lathrop, the County needs to educate us.
- 5) What is the Zone 2 fee at present?
- 6) None
- 7) None
- 8) None
- 9) None
- 10) None

stakeholder interview report

San Joaquin County Water Investigation Zone 2

- 11) Suggestion: Prepare a brochure to address the “10 most frequently asked questions about Zone 2.” (Make up the “10 most frequently asked questions...” If necessary.) Talk to the newspapers. Take out paid advertising.
- 12) This issue is critical to our area; water supply and flood control go together! We need to make wise choices about how the money would be used and make Zone 2 a valuable asset.

ATTACHMENT
I.D.

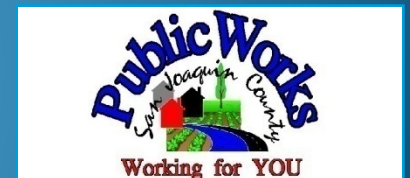
Alternatives for Formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

February 11, 2015

Brandon W. Nakagawa, P.E.

San Joaquin County

Water Resources Coordinator



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

- Requires formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
- Requires completion of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
- Requires GSA's to manage groundwater basins through implementation of GSP's
- Provides GSA's with authority to collect fees and conduct enforcement actions

SGMA cont.

- Multiple GSA's and GSP's allowed within a basin with a "Coordination Agreement"
- Coordination with adjoining basin GSAs is required
- GSA is formed from one or more local agencies with water supply, water management or land use responsibility
- GSA can be formed under a joint powers agreement or a memorandum of agreement
- Failure to form GSA by June 30, 2017 will result in State intervention

6 Steps to Forming a GSA

1. Identify basins and their boundaries
2. Identify local agencies and parties of interest
3. Understand the basin conditions and issues
4. Engage parties of interest
5. Discuss assignment of authorities
6. Evaluate and propose governance model

Identify Basins and Their Boundaries

- Basin boundaries defined by State Bulletin 118
- State regulations for adjusting basin boundaries are due January 1, 2016



Identify Local Agencies and Parties of Interest

- Water supply and water management agencies
- Municipalities including land use planning entities
- Agricultural and domestic groundwater users
- Small public water systems
- Surface water users
- Federal agencies holding land in the basin
- Environmental users of groundwater
- California Native American Tribes
- Disadvantaged communities

Understand the Basin Conditions and Issues

- Condition of the basin
- Existing Groundwater Management Plans
- Groundwater basin models
- Groundwater monitoring data
- Identify key issues such as declining elevations, degrading water quality, subsidence, impacts to the ecosystem, impacts to surface water systems, need for additional water supply

Engage Parties of Interest

- Prior to State acceptance of a GSA, a noticed public hearing must be held
- How will interested parties participate in the process?
- Will existing advisory groups be used?
- Will new structures or processes be needed?
- How will input be received on GSA formation, GSP development and GSP implementation?

Discuss Assignment of Authorities

- Range of authorities and tasks
 - Coordination
 - Planning
 - Monitoring and Reporting
 - Implementation
 - Financing
 - Enforcement
- Will any existing local agencies assume any of the authorities and tasks?

Evaluate and Propose Governance Model

1. Single GSA with single GPA
2. Single GSA with multiple GPA's
3. Multiple GSA's with single GPA
4. Multiple GSA's with multiple GPA's

Single GSA vs Multiple GSAs

- Single GSA
 - Basin wide GSA is responsible for monitoring/reporting, enforcement and implementation of the GSP(s)
 - Power to place constraints on groundwater pumping within Districts
 - Requires formation of a governance board
- Multiple GSAs
 - Districts can self designate as GSA for their area
 - Each GSA is responsible for monitoring/reporting, enforcement and implementation of the GSP(s)
 - Requires a “Coordination Agreement” between all entities within the basin

Single GSP vs Multiple GSPs

- Single GSP
 - All technical studies, data and modeling would be based on the entire basin
 - Boundary conditions would exist only at the basin interface with adjoining basins
- Multiple GSPs
 - All technical studies and modeling is required to be based on the same data set
 - Boundary conditions would exist not only at basin interfaces but also at the interface between each GSP
 - GSPs must all show total basin sustainability
 - Much more costly to develop than single GSP

Questions?



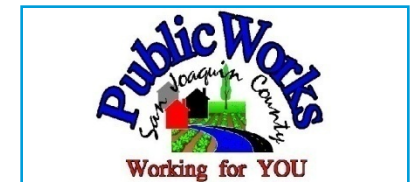
www.GBAWater.org

www.SJWater.org

www.SJCleanWater.org

www.MOREWATER.org

www.SJCSavewater.org



ATTACHMENT
III.A.

By Alex Breittler
Record Staff Writer

Print Page

February 11, 2015 8:00PM

San Joaquin County's underground supply sinks toward 1992 low point

An invisible "savings account" beneath our feet just keeps shrinking, with groundwater dropping to levels not seen since the end of the last major drought.

A report made available Wednesday shows that San Joaquin County's precious groundwater last year fell virtually as low as it did in 1992, which has long been the benchmark that local officials use to measure the severity of other dry years.

That shows how deep the drought has become. When less water is available from rivers, as appears likely again this year, cities and farms must pump more water from below ground, tapping that savings account that water managers would rather not touch.

Sinking groundwater also can harm the quality of the water and make it more expensive to pump it to the surface.

"We saw levels drop dramatically" in 2014, said Gerardo Dominguez, an engineer with San Joaquin County Public Works.

That's not surprising, given how dry it's been. Less rain means less water to soak into the soil and naturally replenish the underground supply.

The good news is that future wet years could quickly bring groundwater levels back up. In fact, county officials say that over the long term groundwater levels have been relatively stable, thanks to new projects that make use of river water.

But the immediate problem is that almost all of the 308 wells tested by county officials last fall registered a decline from the previous year. In one extreme case, a well within the Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District east of Stockton plummeted 12 feet.

Farmers, in turn, are requesting more well-drilling permits. Last year the county Environmental Health Department issued 151 such permits, up from 55 permits the previous year.

In some cases, older shallow wells may be running dry, said Paul Sanguinetti, a farmer and president of the Stockton East Water District Board of Directors.

But it's more likely, he said, that farmers simply want to drill new wells as a kind of insurance policy should water from rivers be further restricted.

Sanguinetti himself got permission to drill a new well to irrigate 175 acres of walnut trees, just in case he doesn't have enough river water later this year.

"I've got to keep my permanent crops alive," he said.

But well drillers are so busy that it's likely to be June before the well is drilled, he added. Indeed, county officials said some of the well-drilling permits they issued have expired without being used.

While groundwater levels across the county are only a few inches above 1992 on average, the health of the groundwater basin depends a great deal on where you are.

The city of Stockton and farmland east of the city generally has higher groundwater than 1992, because more river water has been made available in those areas.

Farmland east of Lodi and east of Manteca generally has lower groundwater than 1992.

Those long-term comparisons aside, the more recent trend is one of declining water levels for almost everyone. The drop last year averaged 3 feet across the county; the drop over the past three years combined is more than 6 feet, officials said Wednesday.

Said Dominguez: "It was a pretty bad year."

— Contact reporter Alex Breittler at (209) 546-8295 or abreitler@recordnet.com. Follow him at recordnet.com/breitlerblog and on Twitter @alexbreittler.



California's drought is taking a toll on groundwater levels in San Joaquin County, according to a report released Wednesday. Red arrows represent wells where water levels dropped last fall, and blue arrows, few and far between, represent wells where water levels went up. ALEX BREITLER/THE RECORD

Tracking wells

San Joaquin County recently sent more than 100 letters asking landowners for permission to send construction details about their groundwater wells to the state Department of Water Resources. That's a controversial request; well information is protected by law and is a sensitive subject for many landowners. But without that information, the state has said it won't approve the county's groundwater monitoring plan. The county, as a consequence, now is ineligible for water-related grants from various sources, including the water bond approved by voters last November. The county hopes to get a good response from the letters, an official with Public Works said Wednesday. A bill pending in the state Legislature would make well information a matter of public record.

ATTACHMENT
III.B.

Implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: *Local Governance Approaches and Considerations*

HOSTED BY STANISLAUS COUNTY & TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT

February 5, 2015 | 9:30 am – 3:00 pm | Modesto, CA

Stanislaus County Harvest Hall | 3800 Cornucopia Way | Modesto, CA 95358

Workshop Objectives

- Learn about the governance requirements enacted through the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
- Explore common considerations and approaches to shaping a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).
- Through discussion of local case studies, learn how governance considerations are being applied to local groundwater basins.
- Identify common themes and takeaways from local case studies.

Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
9:30 a.m. – 10:00	Check-in and Refreshments	
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome & Introductions	• Supervisor Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County
10:15 – 11:00	Overview of SGMA and Local Governance Considerations	• Kate Williams, California Water Foundation
11:00 – 11:35	Case Study: <i>Stanislaus County</i>	• Walt Ward, Stanislaus County
11:35 – 12:10 p.m.	Case Study: <i>Turlock Subbasin</i>	• Herb Smart, Turlock Irrigation District
12:10 – 12:45	Case Study: <i>Modesto Subbasin</i>	• John Davids, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association
12:45 – 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 – 2:05	Case Study: <i>Paso Robles Subbasin</i>	• Mark Hutchinson, San Luis Obispo County
2:05 – 2:50	Practical Applications of Workshop Perspectives and Insights	• Mike Harty, Kearns & West • Workshop Participants
2:50 – 3:00	Wrap-up and Evaluation	• Mike Harty, Kearns & West

*Sponsored by the Association of California Water Agencies,
California State Association of Counties, Rural County Representatives of California,
and California Water Foundation (an initiative of Resources Legacy Fund).*

ATTACHMENT
III.C.

San Joaquin County, water districts hope to recharge area's groundwater

By Wes Bowers/News-Sentinel Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, February 4, 2015
12:25 am



San Joaquin County, water districts hope to recharge area's groundwater

Rows of corn begin to sprout at the Nakagawa property where a recharge project took place after the corn harvest in September 2003. San Joaquin County officials and the East Bay Municipal Utility District aim to start tests by midsummer to determine whether a new groundwater recharge project in the area will be feasible.

East Bay Municipal Utility District and the County of San Joaquin are looking for landowners with two acres of permeable soil for a groundwater recharge project.

The Demonstration Recharge Extraction and Aquifer Management (DREAM) Project, being developed by the county and EBMUD in cooperation with the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, is aimed at replenishing wells in the area. The two-phase project will begin with physically testing whether groundwater recharge and extraction is feasible in the Lodi area.

To do this, project officials will create small mounds of earth about two feet high to create a 2 acre pond. Water will then be allowed to trickle down through the soil and into the groundwater aquifers, according to EBMUD's project description at www.groundwaterbank.org.

The test only requires a land donation from a single landowner to be completed, according to Mark Williamson of GEI Consultants, the Sacramento firm designing the

project, but others are welcome to donate. Landowners with a large amount of sandy lawn soil are encouraged to participate in the project.

Williamson said landowners near NSJWCD's distribution system near the Mokelumne River and Locust Tree Drive are desired for the testing phase.

"The land needs to be an area with permeable soils," Williamson said. "Any place grapes like to grow would be considered permeable."

The San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority signed a contract for the project with EBMUD early last year, he said.

"It's something that's been in the works for many years," he said. "It's just time for it to happen, and this will help manage the overdraft of groundwater basins in the area."

Participating landowners will be provided water at no charge for the duration of the project. The testing phase is expected to last up to five years.

The project will be paid for completely by EBMUD, and land will be restored to the landowner's satisfaction at the end of the testing phase. Landowners will also be paid a fair value of the land for use of existing wells, according to the project description.

Williamson said the county and EBMUD would like to get the testing phase of the project started by mid-summer.

If testing goes well and it is decided a larger recharge pond will be built, construction would most likely begin immediately after the testing phase, he said.

Where NSJWCD's Tracy Lakes recharge project will benefit growers near the man-made lake, Williamson said the DREAM project will benefit anyone with a well.

"It's really a win-win for everyone," Williamson said.

For more information about the project, or if you would like to donate your land for the project, email mwilliamson@geiconsultants.com or visit www.groundwaterbank.org.

Contact reporter Wes Bowers at wesb@lodinews.com.

ATTACHMENT
III.D.

By Alex Breittler
Record Staff Writer

Print Page

January 27, 2015 8:15PM

Water managers propose emergency actions after driest January on record

STOCKTON — A city that normally sees well over 2 inches of rain in January will likely finish the month with two-hundredths of an inch.

But Stockton won't be the only community to record its driest January ever. Indeed, hopes that the drought was loosening its grip on California are quickly evaporating.

While some areas saw slight improvement after a wet December, the San Joaquin River watershed is in even worse shape than when the drought was officially declared one year ago.

Water managers are proposing a new round of emergency actions that may be starting to sound familiar:

- Late Monday, operators of the vast state and federal water projects asked for permission to store more water in reservoirs over the next couple of months, rather than allowing that water to flow through the Delta for fish, as would ordinarily be required.
- Letters have been sent to farmers warning that unless storms arrive, they could be ordered later this year to stop diverting water. About 9,000 such orders were issued last year to those with younger, "junior" water rights.
- State officials said Monday they are once again considering building temporary rock barriers in three locations to prevent saltwater from creeping into the Delta from San Francisco Bay.

Some of the state's reservoirs bumped up a bit in December. But as Mark Cowin, director of the state Department of Water Resources, put it earlier this month: "We've gone from really, really, really bad to really, really bad."

Either description certainly applies to New Melones Lake, the largest reservoir in the San Joaquin River drainage and one source of Stockton's water.

New Melones was 40 percent of normal on Tuesday, down from about 74 percent this time last year. This winter's early storms "kind of petered out once you got south of Lake Tahoe," said Maury Roos, a hydrologist with Water Resources.

Two water districts east of Stockton contract with the federal government for water from New Melones. Last year those districts were pleased to receive about 55 percent of their contracted water.

But an official with the city of Stockton, which buys water from the Stockton East Water District, says that might not be the case this time.

"We're expecting the worst from Stockton East, which is no allocation from New Melones," said Bob Granberg, assistant director of the city's Municipal Utilities Department.

Stockton does have other sources of water but might need to tap its groundwater "savings account" more heavily this year — a tactic the city would rather avoid.

"We're confident we're not going to be in panic mode," Granberg said. "We have a diverse supply."

As always during dry years, Delta farmers will be keeping a close eye on water quality as winter turns into spring.

When little fresh water flows from the mountains, salty water tends to spread into the Delta from San Francisco Bay. When farmers irrigate with that lower-quality water, salt builds up in the soil over time. The current drought appears to be no exception.

"Farmers have said they're seeing more salt damage in the fields," said Dante Nomellini, a Stockton attorney representing farmers in the central Delta.

Hoping to prevent the Delta from becoming even saltier later this year, the state and feds are asking the State Water Resources Control Board for permission to bypass normal rules in the Delta over the next couple of months.

They're requesting lower-than-normal flows coming out of the Delta and on the San Joaquin River at Vernalis, among other measures.

The request acknowledges that sensitive fish could benefit from those flows. The tiny Delta smelt is at its lowest number on record.

But releasing that water through the Delta now could cause "substantially worse impacts" later, if dry conditions continue and saltwater invades the estuary from the west, officials argue. Keeping more water in reservoirs helps officials maintain control over Delta water quality later this summer and also increases the amount of cold water available later for migrating fish.

Like similar changes that were approved at the end of January last year, the latest emergency proposal would bypass the normal public process. A hearing on the plan has been scheduled for Feb. 18, but that's only after the request — if approved — will have already taken effect.

Of course, there is still time for winter to show up. Losing January is a blow, but a wet February and March could spare the state some of the same difficult decisions that it had to make last year, and some of the conflict, too.

"I'm still hopeful," said Roos, the state hydrologist. "I don't expect an above-average year, it's too far gone for that, but it still might turn out that there's enough to make the situation bearable."

— Contact reporter Alex Breittler at (209) 546-8295 or abreittler@recordnet.com. Follow him at recordnet.com/breittlerblog and on Twitter @alexbreittler.

Barriers proposed

Like last year, state officials are considering installing temporary rock barriers at three locations in the Delta to keep saltwater at bay. Late storms last year rendered the barriers unnecessary, but they're back on the table for 2015. One barrier would be built in the south Delta, on False River. The other two would be in the north Delta on Steamboat and Sutter sloughs. Public comments are now being accepted. For more details visit bit.ly/1CeVEtM.

<http://www.recordnet.com/article/20150127/NEWS/150129665>

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