

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Regular Meeting  
Manteca, California  
May 15, 2024**

The Governing Board of the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) met in regular session in person at the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) Board Room at 9:00 a.m., with public access provided via the online Zoom meeting platform. Chairman de Graaf called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., and led the flag salute.

Upon roll-call the following members were noted present:

PRESENT: Daniel de Graaf, City of Ripon  
Jaylen French, City of Escalon  
Robert Holmes, South San Joaquin Irrigation District  
Mike Weststeyn, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

ABSENT: David Roos, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

Also present were SSJID General Manager Peter Rietkerk, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator and SSJGSA Secretary Brandon Nakagawa, and SSJID Clerk of the Board Danielle Barney.

**Public Comment** – None

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Item #1 – Approval of the Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2024**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Holmes to approve the minutes as submitted.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: de GRAAF FRENCH HOLMES WESTSTEYN  
NOES: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE  
ABSENT: ROOS

**Item #2 – Quarterly Presentation of Financial Statements Through March 2024**

Ms. Sonya Williams, SSJID Financial and Administration Manager and SSJGSA Treasurer, addressed the Board and gave a quarterly oral presentation of the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Financial Statements through March 31, 2024. She provided detailed descriptions of the balance sheets, bank reconciliation, statement of changes in net position, statements of members' capital, expense reimbursements to the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, and the 2024 budget which showed a remaining balance of \$195,463.00.

Ms. Williams stated that the SSJGSA 2023 audit is currently being conducted by Price Page & Company (PP&C). Completion of the audit is anticipated by the next regular board meeting, at which time the final audit report will be presented for Board approval.

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator and SSJGSA Secretary, noted line items allocating funds for the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) member contributions in the amount of \$65,000.00, and Technical Consultants in the amount of \$20,000.00. He stated that the budget and projected expenses should remain unchanged through September 2024.

**Item #3 – Approval of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Supplemental Member Dues Invoice in the Amount of \$45,303.00**

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board and stated that the ESJGWA invoices for supplemental member dues had been sent out to the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), and the SSJGSA amount due is \$45,303.00. He provided a brief recap of the supplemental Member dues owed explaining that the California Department of Water Resources’ (DWR) new, stringent standards had ballooned costs for the ESJGWA 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Update from an estimated \$300,000.00 to over \$1.13 million. The cost increase triggered the need for an ESJGWA budget amendment including a sizable increase in Member GSA dues. Mr. Nakagawa stated that the \$45,303.00 invoice amount is in addition to the \$24,113.00 already paid by the SSJGSA in 2023, and is within the approved SSJGSA 2024 budget.

Director Holmes noted the collaborated efforts of the ESJGWA Board of Directors, the ESJGWA Steering Committee, and Mr. Nakagawa to develop the formula calculating cost allocations for each of the seventeen (17) GSAs. Mr. Nakagawa added that the calculations were based on each GSA’s population and groundwater usage, with smaller GSAs paying a flat rate of \$8,500.00.

Additional discussion included an ESJGWA budget decrease once the 2025 GSP Update has been completed, and projected budget increases due to DWR’s domestic well mitigation.

Staff recommended Board approval of payment to the ESJGWA for SSJGSA supplemental member dues in the amount of \$45,303.00.

*Special SSJGSA Counsel Valerie Kincaid joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m., via the online Zoom platform.*

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holmes and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve payment to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority for supplemental dues in the amount of \$45,303.00.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	de GRAAF FRENCH HOLMES WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	ROOS

**Item #4 – Discussion on Recent Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Meetings**

Mr. Nakagawa referenced the agenda item Main Staff Report, Attachment 4.a. ESJGWA Steering Committee and Board Meetings – March 13, 2024, Attachment 4.b. ESJGWA Steering Committee – April 10, 2024, and Attachment 4.c. Draft Domestic Well Mitigation Program.

Mr. Nakagawa highlighted recent discussion and/or action at the ESJGWA Board level including the requirement for stakeholder engagement and outreach; and anticipated outreach participants including local growers, community groups, industry groups, non-governmental organizations, Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), and

domestic well holders. He stated that ESJGWA public meetings and/or outreach have been tentatively scheduled for June 26, July 17, and September 25.

Mr. Nakagawa reported on additional ESJGWA discussion and/or action regarding required well mitigation included the draft well mitigation concept, draft concept outline, draft well mitigation concept document and resolution for consideration by the Steering Committee, funding for the Well Mitigation Program in the 2024-2025 ESJGWA Annual Budget, public outreach, public meetings, ESJGWA Board approval anticipated in August 2024, and submittal of the ESJGWA Well Mitigation Program document to DWR.

Mr. Nakagawa provided an update on the ESJGWA's Westgate Landing Park Groundwater Monitoring Project. The \$300,000.00 grant awarded for the project was lessened by DWR to \$150,000.00 due to failure to complete the project by the April 15 deadline. Discussion included moving forward with the project, and additional funding.

SSJGSA Board discussion included subsidence data, and satellite data versus traditional surveying data.

**Item #5 – Direction to SSJGSA Representatives to Approve Proposed ESJGWA 2024-2025 Budget**

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board regarding the proposed ESJGWA 2024-2025 budget which is scheduled to be finalized and approved by the ESJGWA in June. He provided detailed explanations of projected expenses including consultants, administrative costs, data collection, the GSP Annual Report, and domestic well mitigation; and the projected reserves balance of \$1,379,000.00.

Staff recommended that the SSJGSA Board approve the proposed ESJGWA 2024-2025 budget as presented.

Director Holmes commended Mr. Nakagawa for his work in the development of the 2024-2025 budget.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holmes and seconded by Director Weststeyn to direct the SSJGSA designated representatives to approve the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority proposed 2024-2025 budget, as submitted, at the ESJGWA Board meeting scheduled in June.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	de GRAAF FRENCH HOLMES WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	ROOS

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Item #6 – Various Reports to the Governing Board:**

Mr. Nakagawa announced the Groundwater Resources Association (GRA) 2024 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation Summit and Workshop, on June 5-6, 2024, in Sacramento. He stated that the informative event provides an opportunity for GSAs to get together to discuss progress on SGMA implementation, and collaborate with Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) members and GRA technical experts. Funds for this conference were allocated in the SSJGSA 2024-2025 budget.

- a) **Staff and Consultant Updates**
  - i. Legislation

ii. GSA Updates from San Joaquin Valley

Director Holmes announced that the East Turlock Subbasin GSA will be holding upcoming workshops including:

- May 14 – Land IQ Evapotranspiration Workshop, Cortez Hall, Ballico
- June 25 – Groundwater Accounting Platform Launch and Account Creation, Location to be determined.
- July/August – Groundwater Use Fees: Fee Study, Usage Tiers and Pricing, Cortez Hall, Ballico
- October/November – Land IQ Evapotranspiration Workshop, Cortez Hall, Ballico

b) **Technical Advisory Committee**  
None

c) **Member Reports**  
None

d) **Correspondence**  
None

*Ms. Kincaid joined the meeting, in-person, at 9:54 a.m.*

*The Board convened to Closed Session at 9:55 a.m.*

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Item #7 – Closed Session**

*The Board returned to Open Session at 10:43 a.m.*

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

Disclosure of reportable actions taken in Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1:  
There were no reportable actions taken in Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Item #8 – Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board