

**MINUTES OF THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY MEETING
HELD FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 AT 8:30 A.M.**

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

Firebaugh Canal Water District (FCWD):

Mike Stearns, Director (arrived at 8:35 a.m.); Jeff Bryant, General Manager (via teleconference)

Columbia Canal Company (CCC):

Kimberly Brown, Chair; Chris Cardella, Director

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

The following person(s) participated via Conference Call:

Kristy Robinson, Waterwise; Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock & Jensen; and Don Wright, Journalist (8:45 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The unapproved minutes from the May 5, 2023 Exchange Contractors GSA meeting were presented. A motion was made by Director Nickel and seconded by Director Fontana to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There were no public comments presented.

BOARD TO APPROVE MAY – AUGUST 2023 EXPENDITURES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Joann White presented the Expenditure List outlining the months of May and August, 2023. She next moved onto her summary of the Financial Memo outlining the Budget Summary and Cash Activity Report. Following the presentation, Manager Martin provided an outline of the process being implemented in moving forward in preparing the next revision of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) after receiving notice from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) that the revised GSP was inadequate. He said that the new consultant firm will cost approximately \$1.4 Million that will be pro-rated among the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). The Executive Director then explained that because of these additional unanticipated expenses, along with the increase in legal fees incurred throughout the year as a result of the current lawsuit, the Finance Committee recommended to increase the fourth quarter dues by \$115,000 for a total of \$150,000.

A motion was made by Director Fontana and seconded by Director Nickel to approve the May through August 2023 Expenditure List. The motion was unanimously carried.

Upon a brief discussion, a motion was made by Director Nickel and seconded by Director Fontana to approve the Financial Report as presented including the increase to the fourth quarter dues of \$115,000 for a total of \$150,000. The motion was unanimously carried.

STATUS OF GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AND SUBBASIN COORDINATION EFFORTS:

A status report had been provided during the previous discussions, however, the Executive Director said that both Managers Martin and Wiersma are spending a lot of time coordinating with the GSA's and with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and staff to adequately address issues prior to the submittal of the next GSP prior to the probationary hearing to be scheduled in September 2024.

Legal Counsel next provided an update on the litigation case, noting that the Motion to Dismiss and demurrers have been scheduled for October. He then stated that he has been working on the Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) being developed, one with the cities and agencies included in the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors GSA and the second one is to establish a coordinated committee among the GSA's within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin in moving forward to develop one GSP.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 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