



Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association
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MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2016 (3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

MID CONFERENCE ROOM 3A

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The following members of the Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association (STRGBA) were present:

Modesto Irrigation District (MID):	John Davids
City of Modesto:	Glenn Prasad, Jack Bond
City of Oakdale:	Michael Renfrow
Oakdale Irrigation District:	Eric Thorburn
Stanislaus County:	Walt Ward
City of Riverbank:	Michael Riddell
City of Waterford:	Karen Morgan

Also in Attendance:

Agricultural Preservation Alliance:	Kevin Kauffman
Turlock Irrigation District:	Herb Smart

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Election of Officers

The STRGBA Contact List was handed out. Committee members reviewed the Contact List and confirmed their designated members and alternates.

A motion was made to re-elect Mr. Davids and Mr. Prasad as Chairman and Vice-chairman respectively. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Approve 12/10/2015 Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the 12/10/2015 STRGBA meeting were unanimously approved.

5. Work Plan for 2016 Calendar Year

Mr. Davids laid out four items that could be included as part of the 2016 Work Plan. These were (1) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Formation, (2) Governance, (3) Stakeholder Outreach, and (4) Update/Enhancements to the USGS Groundwater

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Model. Mr. Ward suggested that the STRGBA should also consider adding a fifth item to the proposed Work Plan, which addresses further groundwater data collection and management efforts in the STRGBA management area (i.e. data collection and management beyond the current CASGEM related efforts). The Committee agreed to include this item and unanimously approved the amended 2016 Work Plan.

6. Status of Revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Adoption

All agencies participating in the STRGBA have approved the MOU except the City of Modesto. The City of Modesto staff received council approval in their January 12, 2016 council meeting and the MOU will be routed to their City Manager for approval.

7. Governance Guiding Principles Document and Groundwater Sustainability (GSA) Formation

Mr. Davids and Ms. Carrie Loschke had put together a package for GSA formation that included a map, the resolution, the revised MOU, and a list of interested parties with a stakeholder outreach plan. In a prior meeting, this package was distributed to the Committee members for review. Committee members agreed to provide comments to the packet/process by the next STRGBA meeting.

Mr. Bond mentioned that the Committee should initiate preliminary discussions on whether the future GSA would be formed via a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). Mr. Thorburn raised concerns regarding the ongoing efforts in the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater basin, which includes the northern county "triangle area." The Committee decided to get the GSA formation package to the point where members were comfortable with it, before engaging in the Governance Guiding Principles document review; the STRGBA will submit the GSA formation documents to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) when a general consensus has been reached amongst Committee members.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for February 11, 2016 in the MID Conference Rm. 3A.

9. Items too late for the Agenda

Mr. Bond reminded the Committee members about the concerns and discussions the member agencies had at the Stanislaus County Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting (held on January 14, 2015) and the need to solicit proposals from qualified consultants with regard to the proposed \$250,000 plus modeling work that is part of the overall groundwater ordinance Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) scope. He expressed his concern that Jacobson and James' lead on the groundwater modeling component of the PEIR work appeared to preclude other qualified firms from

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competing for this work. He requested assurance from Mr. Ward that an open solicitation process will be conducted if the County obtains any Proposition 1 grant funding. Mr. Ward said that this is his intent; however, he will use all means necessary to keep the project moving forward. Mr. Davids offered to draft a letter on the Committee's behalf, expressing the co-equal role of the STRGBA and Stanislaus County in regional groundwater management activities and that the expectation from STRGBA member agencies is that discussions about groundwater management within the Modesto Sub-basin would occur within the context of the STRGBA.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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