Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

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Please Provide Public Comment by 12:00 pm the day of the meeting* by either email or mail.

E-mail comments to:
ekang@scvwa.org

- Or -

Mail comments to:

Eunie Kang
Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

*All written comments received after 12:00 pm the day of the meeting will be posted to **scvgsa.org** the next day. Disclaimer: Pursuant to the Executive Order N2920 Issued by Gov. Newsom, public may not attend meetings in person. Public may use the above methods to attend and participate in the public board meetings.

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NOTICE AND AGENDA OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY BOARD

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – Board Room
Rio Vista Treatment Plant Facility
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

WEB AND TELECONFERENCE ONLY
NO PHYSICAL LOCATION FOR MEETING

Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 2:30 PM

WEB AND TELECONFERENCING NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, any Director may call into an Agency Board meeting using the Agency's **Call-In Number 1 (833) 568 8864, Webinar ID: 160 726 3197 or Zoom by clicking on the link https://scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1607263197** without otherwise complying with the Brown Act's teleconferencing requirements.

Pursuant to the above Executive Order, the public may not attend the meeting in person. Any member of the public may listen to the meeting or make comments to the Board using the call-in number or GoToMeeting link above. Please see the notice below if you have a disability and require an accommodation in order to participate in the meeting.

We request that the public submit any comments in writing if practicable, which can be sent to ekang@scvwa.org or mailed to Eunie Kang, Board Secretary, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency, 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. All written comments received before 12:00 PM the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Board members and posted on the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency website prior to the start of the meeting. Anything received after 12:00 PM the day of the meeting will be posted on the SCV-GSA website the following day.

1. REGULAR PROCEDURES

1.1 Call to Order

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Public Comments – Members of the public may comment as to items not on the Agenda at this time. Members of the public wishing to comment on items covered in this agenda may do so now or prior to each item as they arise. (Comments may, at the discretion of the Board's presiding officer, be limited to three minutes for each speaker.)

1.4 Approval of Agenda

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be acted upon by the Board by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items prior to the time the Board votes unless any Board member, staff or the public, requests specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action.

ITEMS			PAGE
2.1	*	Approve Minutes of the January 25, 2021 Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Special Board of Directors Meeting	1

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

ITEMS			PAGE
3.1	*	Overview of the SCV-GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan Public Workshop held on March 10, 2021 – Sustainable Management Criteria	5
3.2	*	Status Update on the Development of the Sustainable Management Criteria	7

4. CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

5. ADJOURMENT

*** Indicates attachment**
♦ To be distributed

NOTICES:

Any person may make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation needed for that person to be able to participate in the public meeting by telephoning Eunie Kang, Secretary to the Board of Directors, at (661) 297-1600 or writing to Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested. A telephone number or other contact information should be included so that Agency staff may discuss appropriate arrangements. Persons requesting a disability-related accommodation should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the Agency to provide the requested accommodation.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Board less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection at the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, located at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, California 91350, during regular business hours. When practical, these public records will also be made available on the Agency's Internet Website, accessible at http://www.scvgsa.org.

Posted on March 18, 2021

DRAFT

ITEM NO. 2.1

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency – January 25, 2021

A special board meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SCV-GSA) was held via web and teleconference at 2:30 PM on Monday, January 25, 2021. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the SCV-GSA preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: B.J. Atkins, Russ Bryden, William C. Cooper, Maria Gutzeit, Gary Martin, Gina Natoli

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

Also present via web and teleconference: SCV-GSA General Counsel Tom Bunn, SCV-GSA Board Secretary Eunie Kang, SCV Water; Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Director of Water Resources Dirk Marks, Principal Water Resource Planner Rick Viergutz, Communications Manager Kathie Martin, SCVWA IT; Tara Bravo, CV Strategies; Jeff Barry, GSI; and various members of the public.

President Atkins called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. A quorum was present.

Item 1.3: There was no public comment.

Item 1.4: Upon motion of Vice President Natoli, seconded by Director Martin and carried, the Agenda was approved by the following roll call votes:

President Atkins	Yes	Director Gutzeit	Yes
Director Bryden	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Vice President Natoli	Yes

Item 2: Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Gutzeit and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar by the following roll call votes:

President Atkins	Yes	Director Gutzeit	Yes
Director Bryden	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Vice President Natoli	Yes

Item 3.1: Tara Bravo presented a summary of the SCV-GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Public Workshop on Water Budgets, which was held virtually on November 4, 2020, with 47 participants. The event generated 14 questions/feedback and two feedback forms from attendees.

Overall, positive feedback was received from the public with few questions on data collections and the process of the Sustainability Groundwater Management Agency implementation.

There was no public comment on item 3.1.

Item 3.2: Rick Viergutz provided a review and status update on the development of the Sustainable Management Criteria with the Stakeholder Advisory Committee members and public outreach engagements.

There was public comment on item 3.2.

Item 3.3: Tom Bunn, Legal Counsel presented a summary of the SCV-GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee Norms and Expectations and whether there was a potential violation from the member(s) of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

The Board recommended Legal Counsel to provide a draft revision to the Norms and Expectations at the next SCV-GSA Regular Board meeting by which the Stakeholder Committee members may not use their position on the committee as a basis for a ballot designation and/or occupation.

There was public comment on item 3.3.

Item 3.4: Tara Bravo stated that Roger Haring (small pumper) has resigned and Kathye Armitage (member-at-large) was elected to the SCV Water Board of Directors and is ineligible to serve on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Two vacancies remain on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee Membership.

The Board directed that staff start the recruitment procedure and the Board will appoint the applicant(s) to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

There was no public comment on item 3.4.

Item 3.5: Rick Viergutz provided an update on the status of the Sustainability Groundwater Management Agency implementation activities.

There was no public comment on item 3.5.

Item 3.6: It was suggested the Board consider a rotational process for filling the Board President and Vice President leadership roles to ensure representation of all member agencies.

The Board will continue further discussion at the next SCV-GSA Regular Board meeting.

There was no public comment on item 3.6.

Item 4: President Atkins requested an update on the Los Angeles County Department of Water and Power Reduced Releases from Bouquet Canyon Reservoir at the next SCV-GSA Regular Board meeting.

Item 5: The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 PM.

Eunie Kang, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

President of the Board

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ITEM NO. 3.1

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

DATE: March 25, 2021

TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors

FROM: SCV-GSA Staff

SUBJECT Overview of SCV-GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan Public Workshop held on March 10, 2021

SUMMARY:

The public Groundwater Sustainability Workshop on Sustainable Management Criteria was held virtually on March 10, 2021, with 51 participants. The event generated 6 questions/feedback and zero feedback forms from attendees. At this meeting, there were some concerns about Stakeholder Advisory Committee feedback not being included, which was addressed both quickly at the meeting and will be discussed in more detail at the March 24 Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting.

At the SAC meeting on March 24, members will have reviewed feedback on the presentation and the draft technical memos.

DISCUSSION:

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting Feedback
The SAC had a series of four meetings between November and March to discuss the Sustainable Management Criteria. The first was a brainstorming workshop to discuss possible Sustainable Management Criteria. The next three were discussions of proposed Sustainable Management Criteria. After these meetings, text and graphic modifications were made to the presentation for the public workshop. The collateral received no feedback.

Outreach
Extensive outreach was made prior to the workshop to draw attendance.

OUTLET	Impressions/ Engagement/Details
Facebook promo w/The Signal	Reach: 3,432; Engagement: 189
Facebook (agency) – standard post Facebook (agency) – boosted post	233 Impressions; 12 Engagements 971 Impressions; 3 Engagements
Instagram	281 Impressions 7 Engagements

Twitter	234 Impressions 5 Engagements
Constant Contact email	3/3/21: GSA list of 308; 30% open rate 3/8/21: Water Currents Special Edition list of 18,000; 42% open rate
GSA Website views (3/01-3/14/21)	206 Users
*Press Release published:	The Signal
	SCV News
	KHTS
Print ad in The Signal	3/6 and 3/9/21: 12,500 subscribers (x2)
Digital banners on The Signal website	202,971 impressions/50 clicks

*The press release was sent to a distribution list of about 40 names, including local and regional media, SCV Chamber, VIA, water industry publications and more.

Public Workshop

The Public Workshop included commentary only from SAC members which was somewhat unexpected based on past workshops. We will look for SAC suggestions on this matter at its March 24, 2021 meeting. There were six total comments made by SAC members at the Public Workshop.

Workshop Feedback
The following questions/comments were submitted by attendees during the Public Workshop #5, Sustainable Management Criteria:

- During our committee meetings I recall discussions that these levels were set too low, but I do not see that any of our comments are reflected here. Or at least no changes were made. So are we just being told what the levels are to be, or is our input and concerns in planning process in the GSP going to be included in the final plan document? I would like to see those thresholds looked at again. Those levels were already reached in 2016 and there were impacts to GDE with oaks dying and tributaries drying up. Did anyone look at the survivability of amphibians in this region?

- Who is the peer review panel?

- If the trees are dying it's much too late - need a trigger much sooner to prevent loss, why wait?

- So are we going to be told again what is happening or will our concerns be given any consideration?

- It's important to distinguish the difference between pumping impacts and natural conditions on the east end. The GSA is intended to address the former, not the latter.

- Are baselines open for adjustment when date becomes available from the east wells?

We've heard and discussed some of these comments more than one time in the past at other SAC meetings, and adjusted our future presentations accordingly and also made notations for

clarifications in the future Sustainable Management Criteria documentation. We realize however that our communication on this matter back to the SAC in some cases hasn't been sufficient. We will open this issue up at the March 24, 2021 SAC meeting and convey in more detail how feedback has been considered so each SAC member is comfortable.

Next Steps
Staff and the consultant team have reviewed and addressed the questions/comments from the meeting. All questions/comments are being archived for the GSP and will be included in the final Public Comment report, accompanied by the way in which they were resolved. Depending on feedback from the SAC about the enhanced communication approach, we will continue this approach with the SAC until the GSP is completed.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

None currently, discussion and informational purposes.

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ITEM NO. 3.2

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

DATE: March 25, 2021

TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors

FROM: SCV-GSA Staff

SUBJECT Status Update on the Development of the Sustainable Management Criteria

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SUMMARY:

This Board memo is the second on this topic. It updates our previous report with more information about stakeholder input as well as input from the groundwater model peer review team. A presentation will be provided that includes additional details about stakeholder input on this topic, an updated summary of draft sustainable management criteria for all six sustainability indicators, and next steps.

Next steps include incorporating Board input on the draft criteria. In June we will hold a special meeting to discuss potential projects and management actions to get Board input prior to creating the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan for public review in August 2021.

DISCUSSION:

Completion of State-required Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) requires several steps and analyses (Figure 1). One of the most important analyses in the GSP is for the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC). The SMC provides guideposts for determining whether the basin is being operated in a sustainable manner without undesirable effects caused by pumping or GSA activities. It has direct impact on quantities and location of pumping activities in a groundwater basin and can be used to determine if or when adaptive management ("Projects and Management Actions") would be implemented.

The SMC provides more detailed operating criteria than traditional groundwater basin operating plans because it considers six state-defined groundwater sustainability indicators. The state also requires the GSP consider effects upon other beneficial uses, such as groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDE). To avoid undesirable results caused by groundwater extraction, basin metrics known as minimum thresholds and measurable objectives are established and monitored in the future. The SMC is also subject to refinement by the GSA as new information is obtained.

The GSA's Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) has helped shape the Draft Technical Memorandum on Sustainable Management Criteria (Draft TM on SMC) and this Board

memorandum through four SAC meetings between November and February, and a March 10, 2021 public workshop.

To date we have captured many comments from stakeholders in the process. Comments are logged and either addressed during the stakeholder meetings or flagged for follow up as needed. We have fielded comments during meetings ranging from explaining graphics and terminology, to making notes to improve our future presentations and/or technical reports. We've heard comments regarding drought stress on oak trees in Placerita Canyon as well as bringing water into the eastern section of the Santa Clara River to improve habitat. We've talked about GSP requirements to maintain or achieve sustainability, versus going beyond those requirements. Other comments have been made regarding specific numerical details in the criteria (e.g. elevation of a minimum threshold or trigger).

Expert Peer Review

An Expert Peer Review panel has conducted a draft review the Draft TM on SMC, and its work may result in some changes to the draft as described below. Generally, the peer review team finds the groundwater flowmodel-supported SMC reasonable. The peer review team generally finds the approach used for addressing potential impacts to groundwater dependent ecosystems reasonable and in the spirit of GSP preparation but suggests that additional information for the "depletion of interconnected surface water" sustainable management criteria be utilized. We are looking into this now and anticipate using groundwater elevations as a surrogate for surface water flow data, coupled with the GDE evaluation approach, to make this more complete and straightforward for Department of Water Resources review. Such a change is not anticipated to modify the current approach to GDE evaluation. The peer review team has also made suggestions for selecting representative wells for the required GSP monitoring program.

Next Steps

At today's meeting, we will provide a discussion of the approach used to prepare the Draft TM on SMC, as may be modified above. Board input will be considered as we continue to refine the SMC.

Additionally, the team will evaluate the need for Projects and Management Actions to address data gaps, improve monitoring, and implement appropriate actions if minimum thresholds and/or trigger levels are approached that indicate a potential exists for impacts to beneficial uses of water, including GDEs. The goal of the Projects and Management Actions described in the GSP is to provide for adaptive management needed to maintain or reach sustainability within 20 years of plan implementation.

Because the SMC and Projects and Management Actions work in concert, and the Projects and Management Actions TM is scheduled for release in May 2021 to the SAC and for a June 2, 2021 Public Workshop, there may be additional changes to the SMC document.

It will be appropriate to hold a Special Board meeting in June 2021 to also get Board input on potential Projects and Management Actions and consider fiscal considerations prior to completing the draft GSP in August 2021.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

None currently, discussion and informational purposes.