Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Join the Live Zoom Webinar from your tablet or computer:

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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 provisions of AB 361, the 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

Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 2:00 PM

WEB AND TELECONFERENCING NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of AB 361, which amends the Brown Act to allow legislative bodies or local agencies to meet remotely during declared emergencies under certain conditions, any Director may call into an Agency Board meeting using the Agency's **Call-In Number 1 (833) 568 8864, Webinar ID: 161 754 1467 or Zoom by clicking on the link https://scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1617541467** without otherwise complying with the Brown Act's teleconferencing requirements.

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 Zoom Webinar 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 within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Agency that are 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 at the time each item is considered. (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. SPECIAL PROCEDURES

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2.1	*	Discussion to Adopt Resolution No. GSA 2021-02 Authorizing Virtual Board and Committee Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361	1

3. RECOGNITION OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE

			PAGE
3.1		Recognition of Dedication and Service to the SCV-GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee Members	

4. 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
4.1	*	Approve Minutes of the July 12, 2021, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Special Board of Directors Meeting	7

5. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

ITEMS			PAGE
5.1	*	Presentation Overview of SCV-GSA Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan Public Workshop held on August 25, 2021	11
5.2	*	Discussion of the SCV-GSA Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Direct Link to Draft GSP: https://share.gsiws.com/index.php/s/CrynwfbbiHFCqqT	15
5.3	*	Status Update of Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan (SGMA) Implementation Activities	23
5.4	*	Discussion to Schedule SCV-GSA Special Board Meeting	27
5.5		Status Update on Bouquet Canyon Creek	

6. DIRECTOR REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. ADJOURMENT

*** Indicates attachment**

- **To be distribute**

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 October 14, 2021

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ITEM NO. 2.1

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

DATE: October 20, 2021

TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors

FROM: SCV-GSA Staff

SUBJECT: Discussion to Adopt Resolution No. GSA 2021-02 Authorizing Virtual Board and Committee Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361

DISCUSSION:

On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 361(AB 361), which amends the Brown Act to allow legislative bodies of local agencies to meet remotely during declared emergencies under certain conditions.

AB 361 authorizes local agencies to continue meeting remotely (but does not require meeting remotely) without following the Brown Act's standard teleconferencing provisions, including the requirement that meetings be conducted in physical locations, if the meeting is held during a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor and either of the following applies: (1) state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; or (2) the legislative body has already determined or is determining whether – as a result of the emergency – meeting in person would present "imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees". The relevant portion of the new proposed law is attached.

Currently, there is still a proclaimed state of emergency, which will continue until the Governor rescinds it. There is also an LA County Health Order in place that promotes social distancing, so condition (1) appears to be met. In addition, based on the existing state of emergency for COVID-19, there is a reasonable basis for the Board to find that meeting in person would present "imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees."

The Board has two primary options:

1. Take no action. If the Board does nothing, the present October 20th special board meeting would adjourn at this time to a future date set by the Board. The adjourned meeting and all future meetings would be in person.
2. Vote to continue remote meetings. The Board could vote to authorize continuing remote meetings based on one or both of the above criteria by adopting Resolution No. GSA 2021-02 (attached), which finds both that Los Angeles County officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, and that as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees. Under the new law, if the state of emergency is still in effect the Board will have to reaffirm one or both of those findings at each board meetings. The

easiest way to do this is to have a motion to continue meeting remotely on the consent calendar at the beginning of each meeting.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

Board discretion.

Attachments:

- AB 361 – Relevant portion
- AB 361 – To View Full Text: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB361
- Draft Resolution No. GSA 2021-02

Relevant portion of Government Code section 54953, as proposed to be amended by AB 361

(e) (1) A local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if the legislative body complies with the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subdivision in any of the following circumstances:

(A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.

(B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(C) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to subparagraph *(B)*, that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(2) A legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this subdivision shall do all of the following:

(A) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

(B) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3. In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option. This subparagraph shall not be construed to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.

(C) The legislative body shall conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties and the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.

(D) In the event of a disruption which prevents the public agency from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control which prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption which prevents the public agency from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(E) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time. This subparagraph shall not be construed to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.

(F) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body,

that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(G) (i) A legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (F), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

(ii) A legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (F), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.

(iii) A legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (F), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

(3) If a state of emergency remains active, or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, in order to continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the legislative body shall, not later than 30 days after teleconferencing for the first time pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1), and every 30 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

(A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency.

(B) Any of the following circumstances exist:

(i) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.

(ii) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

(4) For the purposes of this subdivision, "state of emergency" means a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act (Article 1 (commencing with Section 8550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2).

(f) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2024, and as of that date is repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. GSA 2021-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY AUTHORIZING VIRTUAL BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS PURSUANT TO AB 361

WHEREAS, the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("Agency") is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Agency's legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend and participate in the Agency's meetings; and

WHEREAS, starting in March 2020, in response to the spread of COVID-19 in the State of California, the Governor issued a number of executive orders aimed at containing the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, among other things, these orders waived certain requirements of the Brown Act to allow legislative bodies to meet virtually; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Governor's executive orders, the Agency has been holding virtual meetings during the pandemic in the interest of protecting the health and safety of the public, Agency staff and Directors; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's executive order related to the suspension of certain provisions of the Brown Act expires on September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021 the Governor signed AB 361 (in effect as of October 1, 2021 – Government Code Section 54953(e)), which allows legislative bodies to meet virtually provided there is a state of emergency, and either (1) state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; or (2) the legislative body determines by majority vote that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, such conditions now exist in the Agency, specifically, a state of emergency has been proclaimed related to COVID-19, Los Angeles County officials are imposing and recommending measures to promote social distancing, and because of the ongoing threat of COVID-19, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Remote Teleconference Meetings. Consistent with the provisions of Government Code Section 54953(e), the Board of Directors finds and determines that (1) a state of emergency related to COVID-19 is currently in effect; (2) local officials in Los Angeles County have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing in connection with COVID-19; and (3) due to the COVID-19 emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees. Based on such facts, findings and determinations, the Board authorizes staff to conduct remote teleconference meetings of the Board of Directors, including Committee meetings,

DRAFT

under the provisions of Government Code Section 54953(e).

Section 3. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect October 20, 2021 and shall be effective for 30 days or until this Resolution is extended by a majority vote of the Board of Directors in accordance with Section 4 of this Resolution.

Section 4. Extension by Motion. The Board of Directors may extend the application of this Resolution by motion and majority vote by up to 30 days at a time, provided that it makes all necessary findings consistent with and pursuant to the requirements of Section 54953(e)(3).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency this 20th day of October 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

_____
President

I, the undersigned, hereby certify: That I am the duly appointed and acting Secretary of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and that at a adjourned meeting of the Board of Directors of said Agency held on October 20, 2021, the foregoing Resolution No. GSA 2021-02 was duly and regularly adopted by said Board, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended since the date of its adoption, and that it is now in full force and effect.

DATED: October 20, 2021

_____
Secretary

DRAFT

DRAFT

ITEM NO. 4.1

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency – July 12, 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, July 12, 2021. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the SCV-GSA preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: B.J. Atkins, William C. Cooper, Maria Gutzeit, Gary Martin, Gina Natoli, Jason Gibbs, David Rydman – Alternate for Russ Bryden

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Russ Bryden

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, CV Strategies Tara Bravo, GSI Water Solutions, Inc. Jeff Barry, Jacobs Engineering Group Nate Brown and B.J. Lechler; and various members of the public.

President Natoli 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 Director Cooper, seconded by Director Martin and carried, the Agenda was approved by the following roll call votes:

Director Atkins	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	President Natoli	Yes
Director Gibbs	Yes	Director Rydman	Yes
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes		

Item 2: Upon motion of Director Atkins, seconded by Director Gibbs and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar with the April 5, 2021, amended minutes of the SCV-GSA Regular Board Meeting, showing the correction to Director Martin's name on item 4 by the following roll call votes:

Director Atkins	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	President Natoli	Yes
Director Gibbs	Yes	Director Rydman	Abstain
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes		

Item 3.1: Upon motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board adopted the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget by the following roll call votes:

Director Atkins	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	President Natoli	Yes

Director Gibbs	Yes	Director Rydman	Yes
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes		

There was public comment on item 3.1.

Item 3.2: Tara Bravo gave an overview of the SCV-GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan – Projects and Management Actions Public Workshop held virtually on June 2, 2021, with 34 participants. The event generated two (2) questions/feedback and zero feedback form from attendees. In general, the workshop presentation was well received.

There was public comment on item 3.2.

Item 3.3: B.J. Lechler and Nate Brown presented on the Groundwater Model Peer Review.
Topics covered:

- What is a peer review?
- Why conduct a peer review?
- SCV Water tasks associated with California Department of Water Resources grant

There was public comment on item 3.3.

Item 3.4: Rick Viergutz presented a status update of the Sustainable Groundwater Plan (SGMA) Implementation Activities.
Topics covered:

- Technical and Outreach
- Fiscal and Grants
- Six Month Look Ahead
- Previous Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting comments
- Challenges/Opportunities
- Financial Considerations

There was public comment on item 3.4.

Item 3.5: Upon motion of Director Atkins, seconded by Vice President Gutzeit and carried, the Board approved the postponement of the Regular Board meeting on Monday, October 4, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. by the following roll call votes:

Director Atkins	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	President Natoli	Yes
Director Gibbs	No Vote Recorded – Audio Difficulties	Director Rydman	Yes
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes		

Item 4: The Board went into Closed Session at 4:16 PM.

The Board was instructed to disconnect from the current teleconference and redial in on a separate teleconference line that was provided to the Board of Directors. President Natoli

instructed the public members who wanted to stay on the call, to stay on the current teleconference line and once Closed Session has ended, the Board will reconvene for Closed Session announcements and the conclusion of the meeting.

President Natoli reconvened the Open Session at 5:15 PM.

Item 5: Closed Session Announcements: Tom Bunn, Esq., reported there were no actions taken in Closed Session that were reportable under the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Item 6: Director Atkins requested an update on the status of the Bouquet Canyon Creek. President Natoli requested the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act timeline from California Department of Water Resources.

Item 7: The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 PM.

Eunie Kang, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

President of the Board

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ITEM NO. 5.1

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

DATE: October 20, 2021

TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors

FROM: SCV-GSA Staff

SUBJECT: Presentation Overview of SCV-GSA Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan Public Workshop held on August 25, 2021

SUMMARY:

The public Groundwater Sustainability Workshop on Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan was held virtually on August 25, 2021, with 38 participants. The event generated 10 questions/feedback and two feedback forms from attendees. In general, the workshop presentation was well received, and there was some final feedback for the staff.

At the SAC meeting on September 8, members reviewed feedback on the presentation and the Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

DISCUSSION:

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting Feedback
The SAC had minimal feedback at their pre-workshop meeting on August 3, 2021 but provided Draft GSP feedback through the online form provided and the GSP, presentation and collateral were edited to reflect SAC revisions.

Outreach
Extensive outreach for both the Public Workshop and the Draft GSP release date was made prior to the workshop to draw attendance and community feedback.

*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
Workshop Feedback

The following public feedback on the workshop presentation was received through an online feedback form on the workshop web page and through the online platform during the meeting:

Response 1 (September 17, 2021):

Do you now feel you have a better understanding of our regional geology? Yes

What are the primary considerations for responsible groundwater use and sustainability of our local groundwater resources? Landscape water usage

What do you see as the highest priority groundwater sustainability issue facing the agency? New housing projects

Do you have any other feedback or questions you would like to provide to us at this time? HOAs need to significantly reduce their landscape water usage. There should be a limit on the number of new swimming pools.

Response 2 (September 18, 2021):

Do you now feel you have a better understanding of our regional geology? Yes

What are the primary considerations for responsible groundwater use and sustainability of our local groundwater resources? Someone in city government has to have the guts to tell Sacramento that we will NOT build any more housing.

What do you see as the highest priority groundwater sustainability issue facing the agency? Housing

Workshop Questions

The following questions were submitted by attendees during the Public Workshop on the Draft GSP:

- Does subsidence from oil and gas extraction affect the groundwater levels in any way?
- What if there is no water to import because of drought conditions and everyone in the state is vying for the same paper water?
- Can you please clarify what would be considered "significant" in "significant degradation" with respect to undesirable results for ISWs?
- Have you been following the latest IPCC reports that are reporting the climate change is occurring at a more rapid rate - what is our plan B?
- Under the slide "Considerations When Triggers Are Reached", how will survivability be assessed with respect to this question: Will the vegetation and sensitive species survive the temporary loss of access to groundwater?
- As the imported water supply is likely to see future restrictions due to climate change & drought, are city planning team members considering curtailing additional home building permits to limit ground water draw down? (This would be a preemptive action.)

General Groundwater Sustainability Plan Feedback

These were the comments received on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan:

- Well, first, I want to state that I think that we have the water levels set too low. I think setting them at the historic lows is dangerous, because you're not allowing for any cushion.
- I think at this point, further water system connections are not advised - there should be a planning division group authorized to review to approve or not approve new connections. This is the only proper way to limit further municipal user draw down. Water level

monitoring / followed by management reaction will be too late to make changes after the long-term ground water levels decline.

- Great Job to everyone who created the plan!
- Thank you for the work and comments everyone!

Next Steps
All questions and comments are be archived for the record and will be included in the final feedback report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

None.

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ITEM NO. 5.2

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

DATE: October 20, 2021

TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors

FROM: SCV-GSA Staff

SUBJECT: Discussion of the SCV-GSA Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

SUMMARY:

The Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan has been developed with Stakeholder and Board input. The 60-day comment period is nearly complete, and any comment(s) submitted to date are summarized below. Any additional comments that come in by October 15 will be described at the Board meeting.

Included in this memo is a description of the team's approach to development of this Draft GSP. Because of the length of the document, over 400 pages - not counting appendices, we will provide a high-level overview. The memo also includes a high level summary of proposed sustainable management criteria. The October 20, 2021 meeting will include a presentation on the draft GSP including any public comments submitted during the 60-day public review period. Staff will receive Board input, consider additional public input, and prepare the final draft GSP, releasing it in November. It is scheduled to come back to the Board for consideration in December.

Overview of SGMA and Local GSA Formation:

The State of California's 2014 Sustainable Management Act (SGMA) requires formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and preparation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). Statewide, SGMA has required development of over one hundred GSAs.

SGMA requires groundwater management take broader views at sustainability than were normally looked at statewide, by considering groundwater quality, land subsidence, sea water intrusion, groundwater surface water interactions, and how climate change might affect sustainability. SGMA provides specific requirements for GSP content and schedule, while providing local control in development of Sustainable Management Criteria and GSP Implementation.

The SCV-GSA was formed in May 2017, and in September 2018, the SCV-GSA governance was revised to a Joint Powers Agreement to create additional governance and a process to fund plan development and administration. In April 2019, the technical and stakeholder engagement consultant teams were brought on board. A Stakeholder Advisory Committee was formed after broad outreach and a member selection process and held its first meeting in March 2020.

Sustainability Goal:

The Groundwater Sustainability Plan requirements include that GSPs, contain a Sustainability Goal which reflects stakeholder input and describes the goal, measures to reach or obtain sustainability, and how the goal is likely to be achieved. The full text of the Sustainability Goal is Section 8.2 of the Draft GSP. The sustainability goal at a high level is “to manage the groundwater resources of the Basin for current and future beneficial uses of groundwater, including the river environment, through an adaptive management approach that builds on robust science and monitoring and considers economic, social, and other objectives of a wide variety of stakeholders.”

Key Terms and Concepts in Groundwater Sustainability Plans:

Groundwater Sustainability Plans include a wide range of information including: basin conditions, geology, hydrogeology, land use patterns, future growth, and anticipated future groundwater conditions. GSPs are required to achieve or maintain existing sustainability within 20 years of the plan’s adoption, and that sustainability once achieved be maintained over a 50-year planning horizon.

The state requires GSPs measure sustainability against six state-defined S*ustainability Indicators*, as applicable to the region. These indicators are: lowering groundwater levels, reduction in storage, seawater intrusion, degraded water quality, land subsidence, and depletion of interconnected surface water. The state describes that if groundwater conditions and/or pumping create *“significant and unreasonable effects”* to any of the six sustainability indicators (for example creation of a chronic water level decline), then an *“undesirable result”* has taken place. Basins are to be managed to eliminate any undesirable results within 20 years of plan adoption.

Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC):

SMC are locally developed criteria that consider key objectives and the condition of relevant sustainability indicators. The SMC sets forth the process to quantify the presence or absence of undesirable results. If it appears undesirable results are imminent, or have taken place as a result of pumping, then the GSP identifies *Management Actions and/or Projects* to eliminate the undesirable result.

Measuring sustainability under SGMA requires new approaches. *Minimum Thresholds* are a minimum measurement, often groundwater elevation that if exceeded in a specific number of locations over a specific time, would be defined as an undesirable result. In some basins with existing undesirable results, for example chronic groundwater level declines, GSPs will also include *Interim Milestones* to demonstrate progress toward reaching sustainability (for example recovery of groundwater elevations). GSPs also include *Measurable Objectives*, which are numeric targets representing desired condition of the basin.

Development of GSPs throughout the state, and locally, required a number of new studies-sometimes from the ground-up to fill data gaps. Studies may take years or more and be done during or after GSP adoption. Therefore, GSPs make the best recommendations based on best available science, with the understanding that over time, data gaps will be filled and plan adjustments made as needed. For example, this draft GSP proposes a plan to use special water

level triggers to evaluate if groundwater pumping will potentially cause impacts to Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE). GDEs are plant and animal communities that are supported by groundwater. In this Basin, GDEs have been identified primarily along the Santa Clara River and some tributaries. The approach includes monitoring and filling data gaps over time with the understanding that undesirable results are to be avoided, and over time these triggers may be refined. Plan adjustments can be made by the GSA when it determines it is needed.

GSAs must submit annual reports to DWR describing the basin's condition relative to Sustainable Management Criteria, progress toward filling data gaps, and other relevant details. The DWR will conduct detailed plan reviews every 5 years. A GSA can revise its GSP as frequently or infrequently as it chooses, in order to address new information.

Process used for Developing Sustainable Management Criteria:

A number of GSP related studies were conducted to update past studies and refine our understanding of the basin. Studies included those for the hydrogeological conceptual model and water budgets. Further, the numeric groundwater flowmodel used in this GSP was improved with new information and it also benefited from a groundwater flowmodel peer review process with experts in the field.

Given the many technical studies presented to stakeholders, and the basin's Sustainability Goal, the next step with GSP development was to identify the potential undesirable results for each sustainability indicator. With this understanding, Sustainable Management Criteria was then developed for each indicator. The seawater intrusion sustainability indicator is not applicable in this basin due to the inland location.

High level summaries of water budget analyses, and the proposed Sustainable Management Criteria are summarized below.

Historical Water Budget:

The Draft GSP recognizes historic low water levels were lowest in the 1950s due to agricultural groundwater use prevalent then. Over time, with urbanization, agricultural groundwater use declined while urban groundwater use increased. This change in groundwater use happened as farmed areas were replaced with urban areas. Starting in 1980, importation of State Water Project water provided additional supply for existing and future municipal purposes. The historical groundwater balance demonstrates groundwater elevations fluctuate over time, but the long term trend does not reflect chronic groundwater level decline. Certainly, there are periods where groundwater elevations declined for several or more years due to drought conditions, followed by periods where groundwater elevations returned to predrought levels.

As urbanization increased, so did discharges of treated wastewater to the Santa Clara River. Importation of water and urbanization have resulted in regular surface water discharges to the river from water reclamation plants. At today's volumes, approximately 18 million gallons per day or 20,000 Acre Feet per year of water is discharged to the Santa Clara River from the SCVSD reclamation plants.

Conjunctive use of groundwater and imported water, plus reclamation plant discharges to the river system provided water to native plants, invasive plants and recharges the groundwater basin. River flow and associated shallow groundwater can also be affected by drought and groundwater extraction, as well as other factors.

PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA

Chronic Lowering of Water Levels and Chronic Reduction in Groundwater Storage

Objectives: For avoiding chronic lowering of water levels: “Maintain groundwater levels that continue to support current and future groundwater uses and a healthy river environment in the basin.” For avoiding chronic reduction of groundwater storage: “Maintain sufficient groundwater volumes in storage to sustain current and planned groundwater use in prolonged drought conditions while avoiding permanent degradation of environmental values.”

Sustainable Management Criteria:

- Set at minimum thresholds for the lowest future water levels

Undesirable Result: If groundwater levels drop below the minimum thresholds over a three-year period in certain wells, then an undesirable result will have taken place.

Measurable Objective: Average future water levels

Management Actions If Undesirable Results are Anticipated: Include, but are not limited to: redistribution of pumping, reduced pumping, releases of water from Castaic Lake; import banked water or State Water Project water, and tiered water conservation.

Land Subsidence

Objective: “Reduce or prevent land subsidence that causes significant and unreasonable effects to groundwater supply, land uses, infrastructure, and property interests.”

Sustainable Management Criteria:

- Sets minimum thresholds based on land surface elevations for land subsidence

Undesirable Result:

Substantial interference with land uses, impacts on the use of critical infrastructure and roads, or subsidence greater than minimum thresholds at 10 percent of monitoring locations.

Measurable Objective: Maintenance of current ground surface elevations.

Management Actions if Undesirable Results are Anticipated: Same as for chronic lowering of groundwater levels, and chronic depletion of storage. Include, but are not limited to: redistribution of pumping, reduced pumping, releases of water from Castaic Lake; import banked water or State Water Project water, and tiered water conservation.

Avoid Degraded Groundwater Quality

Objectives: Maintain access to drinking water supplies and agricultural water supplies. Maintain quality consistent with current ecosystem uses.

Sustainable Management Criteria:

- Sets minimum thresholds at existing regulatory Water Quality Objectives for Total Dissolved Solids, chloride, nitrate, and sulfate, or if salts exceed the assimilative capacity of the basin as defined in the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan.

Undesirable Result: Degradation of water quality beyond water quality objectives and assimilative capacities established in the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan.

Measurable Objectives: Prevent water quality degradation for salts and nutrients and for contaminants.

Management Actions if Undesirable Results are Anticipated: Alternatives for improving groundwater quality in the affected area would be reviewed, work with affected groundwater users to deploy well head treatment, arrange for alternate water supply, shift pumping and/or reduce pumping in the affected area.

Avoid Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water

Objectives: Avoid significant and unreasonable affects (i.e., undesirable results) on beneficial uses in the Basin, including GDEs, caused by groundwater extraction. Maintain sufficient groundwater levels and surface water flow to sustain aquatic habitat where unarmored three-spine stickleback (UTS) are present (e.g., at the I-5 Bridge), to the extent such decreases are caused by groundwater extraction.

Sustainable Management Criteria: Surface water depletion caused by groundwater extraction caused by groundwater elevations falling beneath the lowest predicted future groundwater elevation at GDE monitoring wells.

Note that, that a special GDE monitoring and evaluation program is proposed for the GDE areas. GDE evaluations are triggered if groundwater elevations in GDE monitoring wells reach historic lows, or 2 feet above historic lows just upstream from the I-5 Bridge where Unarmored Threespine Stickleback have been observed. Because this is a new approach for monitoring, initially the GSA will track water levels closely ahead of reaching triggers and may evaluate conditions earlier if appropriate. If undesirable results to GDEs are anticipated based on this evaluation, then management actions would be implemented in a timely manner. Over time, with additional data collection and analysis, these GDE triggers and evaluation process is expected to be refined.

Undesirable Result: Permanent loss or significant degradation of existing native riparian or aquatic habitat due to lowered groundwater levels caused by groundwater use throughout the GDE area. In areas that currently provide essential habitat to UTS (sensitive aquatic species in the vicinity of I-5 Bridge), cessation of surface flow during low-flow conditions in the river channel caused by groundwater extraction is an undesirable result.

Measurable Objectives: Average future modeled groundwater elevations at GDE area monitoring wells.

Management Actions: Include GSA coordination with groundwater pumpers to assess the potential for redistribution of pumping and or importing additional water, GSA may coordinate with SCV Water to consider implementing mandatory water conservation program to reduce groundwater pumping, if the evaluation shows non municipal wells are contributing to the problem, then the GSA will conduct outreach to private well owners and stakeholders to discuss how best to respond to the concern. If monitoring data and weather predictions indicate that undesirable results are likely to persist into the following year and the above actions not likely to mitigate impacts, then it may be necessary to develop projects to increase the amount of water in the river system.

Future Water Budget:

The future water budget analysis finds groundwater levels will remain in long term balance (for example no chronic water level decline), but compared to historical conditions, water levels will be lower during certain periods. It also finds that dry weather river flow will be slightly reduced through a combination of increased water demand and climate change factors. Storm flow volumes will remain large; however, their timing will likely be different than in the past, again due to climate change factors.

It is anticipated that future river flows and associated shallow groundwater levels may change over time, which may lead to habitat changes, however, the Draft GSP includes monitoring and management actions to achieve the GSP's sustainability criteria.

Regardless of quality of future habitat, stakeholders feel that protecting habitat from undesirable results from groundwater pumping is a high priority; and stakeholders also recognize eradication and control of invasive species to be important because invasive species consume large amounts of water and do not provide high quality habitat.

Some data gaps exist in our understanding of how future groundwater conditions may affect the sustainability indicators. The Draft GSP includes actions to fill data gaps over time and refine sustainable management criteria if needed, while having management actions in place to address undesirable results should they take place.

In summary, the anticipated future conditions are consistent with the GSP's Sustainability Goal, laying out a basin management that achieves long term sustainability.

GSP Implementation and fiscal considerations:

Upon anticipated SCV-GSA Board of Directors adoption of the final GSP in December 2021, GSP implementation will commence. Implementation includes efforts to a) address data gaps, b) monitoring, reporting, and outreach, c) promoting best water use practices, and d) initial feasibility studies. These efforts anticipate new consultant contracts, and assignment of a member agency to carry out the work. As implementation efforts continue, refinement of the GSP will be made as warranted, with Board consultation and approval.

Figure 10-1 of the Draft GSP identifies the preliminary schedule for GSP implementation. Section 10.3 of the Draft GSP provides conceptual planning level cost estimates for GSP implementation. These conceptual costs were considered and included in the SCV-GSA budget adopted in June.

Public comment on Draft GSP submitted during the 60-day public comment period:

The public comment period for the Draft GSP began August 16, 2021 and concludes October 15, 2021. To date only one public comment has been provided, any additional public comments provided will be shared with your Board at its October 20, 2021 Board meeting.

The public comment provided is one in support of removal of invasive species like Arundo and Tamarisk due to their high-water use, poor habitat quality, and promotion of wildfire ignition. The commenter recommends the GSA coordinate with SCV Water to integrate planning efforts.

Staff agrees and points out that the Draft GSP (Section 9.6.2) recommends the GSA continue to support efforts by others to raise money for invasive species removal projects.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
None at this time.

RECOMMEDNATION:

That the Board of Directors provide input.

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ITEM NO. 5.3

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

DATE: October 20, 2021

TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors

FROM: SCV-GSA Staff

SUBJECT: Status Update of Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan (SGMA) Implementation Activities

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OVERVIEW:

Under its contract with the SCV-GSA, SCV Water Staff has continued to coordinate and manage technical analysis as well as the robust stakeholder engagement in the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The GSP development schedule plans for Board consideration of the Final GSP in December 2021.

This board memo provides additional detail and context for key work undertaken by the SCV-GSA's Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Consultant (CV Strategies), and the SCV-GSA's Technical Consultant (GSI Water Solutions, Inc.).

This memo provides updated information since our July 2021 Status Update. It provides details on recent key accomplishments, descriptions of essential consultant work, and a six month look ahead.

Current Status and Recent Key Accomplishments

Technical:

- The Stakeholder Advisory Committee reviewed the Draft GSP and provided feedback through the online form, email and a Draft GSP Committee meeting. The feedback was addressed and included in the finalization of the Draft GSP.
- The Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan was released for a 60-day public comment period on August 16, 2021.
- Staff and GSI Water Solutions, Inc. met with a representative from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in the field to review locations for monitoring wells and temperature probes. A required notification of planned filed work was submitted to CDFW.

Outreach:

- Completion of the Project and Management Actions workshop, and the Draft GSP workshop, including the pre-workshop Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting (SAC), the public workshop, and the SAC debrief afterwards. This incorporated input from three initial discussions with the SAC on this topic, as well as a GSA Board discussion.

- Continued updating of the public outreach and workshop sections of the GSA website to make accessible all workshop resources, including videos, handouts, and recordings of meetings. https://scvgsa.org/public-input/#public-workshops
- Continued extensive outreach through social media, digital ads, partnerships with local media and email newsletters to encourage participation in the GSP development process.

Fiscal and Grants:

- Staff prepared quarterly reports and invoices pursuant to the Round 2 and Round 3 grant agreements that ultimately may provide reimbursement up to $416,000 and $891,159 reimbursement, respectively. To date, the DWR has authorized reimbursement of $910,048.

Six Month Look Ahead (October 2021-April 2022)

60-day public review period ends.	Fri	10/15/21
SCV-GSA Board Meeting.	Wed	10/20/2021 2 p.m.
Final GSP Released (Will include a summary of changes)	Mon	11/22/21
Special Public Hearing Outreach Begins	Wed	12/01/21
Tentative Special SCV-GSA Board Meeting when Board of Directors considers approval of GSP	Wed	12/15/2021
Submit to DWR	Wed	12/22/21
Installation of Field Equipment for GDE Monitoring		December 2021
First Annual GSP Monitoring Report due to DWR		April 2021

Outreach:

Completion of Outreach for Draft GSP.

This will include outreach about the GSA Board meeting where they will consider the Draft GSP and public comments received through the 60-day review period.

Outreach for Adoption of Final GSP.

Extensive outreach including press releases, social media and print and digital ads will be used to inform stakeholders of the public hearing scheduled for December 15, 2021, where the Board will consider adoption of the Final GSP.

CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITIES:

Longstanding delays with City and County approval of site access agreements have been overcome. The downstream property owner has begun installation of several piezometers and temperature probes consistent with the proposed GSP monitoring approach and will be working with the SCV-GSA to evaluate data under a data-sharing agreement. There are clear benefits

with this approach including working cooperatively to evaluate data, time savings for the SCV-GSA, potentially cost savings.

In the longer term the SGMA process contemplates an adaptive management process where ongoing data collection and operational experience will be incorporated to achieve sustainability within twenty years. Such lessons learned will be incorporated into the GSP that will be updated every five years.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Consultant contracts for the GSP technical consultant, and Stakeholder Engagement Consultant are on track.

CONCLUSIONS:

Significant progress has taken place this last quarter. Several meetings with the Stakeholder Advisory Committee have taken place and a public workshop on the Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan was held. Future monitoring with new instrumentation is still desired and will be completed to the maximum extent. The next six months include Board consideration of the draft and final GSP, adoption of the GSP, and transitioning to GSP implementation.

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ITEM NO. 5.4

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

DATE: October 20, 2021

TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors

FROM: SCV-GSA Staff

SUBJECT: Discussion to Schedule SCV-GSA Special Board Meeting

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SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The current schedule for Board consideration of the final Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) calls for release of the Final GSP on November 22, 2021, followed by Board consideration of the Final GSP on December 15, 2021.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Directors schedule a SCV-GSA Special Board meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 2021.