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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**

IN-PERSON MEETING

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 10:00 AM

Attendees should be aware that while the Agency is following all applicable requirements and guidelines regarding COVID-19, the Agency cannot ensure the health of anyone attending the Board meeting. Attendees should therefore use their own judgement to protect themselves from exposure to COVID-19.

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 9:00 AM 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 9:00 AM 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. 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

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- 2.1 * Approve Minutes of the January 3, 2022, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Regular Board of Directors Meeting 1

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

ITEMS

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- 3.1 * Consideration to Adopt the Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 2021 Annual Report 5

Direct Link to the GSP 2021 Annual Report:

https://scvgsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/SCVGSA_2021-Annual-Report_Final_March2022.pdf

- 3.2 * Quarterly Status Update of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation 8

- 3.3 Bouquet Creek Status Update

- 3.4 * Call a Special Board Meeting and Cancellation of the Regular Board Meeting on July 4, 2022 10

4. DIRECTOR REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

5. ADJOURNMENT

* 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 March 23, 2022

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Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency – January 3, 2022

A regular 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 3, 2022. 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, Jason Gibbs, 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, Tara Bravo CV Strategies, Jeff Barry GSI Water Solutions, Inc.; and various members of the public.

President Natoli called the meeting to order at 2:34 PM. A quorum was present.

Item 1.3: There was no public comment.

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

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

Item 2.1: Upon motion of Director Bryden, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board approved the Continuation of Remote Meetings as described in Assembly Bill 361 by the following roll call votes:

Director Atkins	Yes	Vice President Gutzeit	Yes
Director Bryden	Yes	Director Martin	No
Director Cooper	No	President Natoli	Yes
Director Gibbs	No		

Item 3: Upon motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Gibbs and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar by the following roll call votes:

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

President Natoli opened the Public Hearing on the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency consideration of adoption of the Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

A presentation was given by Rick Viergutz, Jeff Barry and Tara Bravo. Public comments were received, and the Board was given an opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

Item 4.2: Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board approved the SCV-GSA Resolution No. GSA 2022-01 Adopting the Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan by the following roll call votes:

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

RESOLUTION NO. GSA 2022-01

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPTING THE SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY EAST GROUNDWATER SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

WHEREAS, California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Act) requires formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in groundwater basins designated as medium priority, high priority, and basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft; and

WHEREAS, the State has classified the Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin (Basin) as a high priority basin; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in medium and high priority groundwater basins, which are not subject to critical conditions of overdraft, to develop and approve a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by January 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, following significant public outreach, local agencies in the Basin formed the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SCV-GSA) on May 24, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the SCV-GSA was recognized by the California Department of Water Resources as the official Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Basin; and

WHEREAS, following formation of the SCV-GSA, additional outreach commenced for development of the GSP; and

WHEREAS, outreach performed by the SCV-GSA included formation of a Stakeholder Advisory Committee composed of members at large, environmental representatives, business representatives, and private well owner representatives; and

WHEREAS, during the GSP development process, the SCV-GSA solicited and considered stakeholder input including with 6 public workshops, 17 Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings, 21 SCV-GSA Board of Directors meetings, 8 press releases and 16 advertisements, and about 20 social media posts on multiple platforms; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the Act and GSP development regulations, the SCV-GSA reviewed past technical documents regarding basin conditions, such as reports of basin water quality, geology, hydrogeology, and monitoring data; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the Act and GSP development regulations, the SCV-GSA then determined the nature of new studies needed, performed several all-new basin studies for plan development, and proposes additional study during GSP implementation; and

WHEREAS, the GSP recognizes the Basin has been managed sustainably over the long term without chronic declines in groundwater elevations and groundwater storage; and

WHEREAS, the GSP includes future planning strategies that consider climate change, groundwater pumping strategies, expanded monitoring, and management actions to avoid undesirable results; and

WHEREAS, the Act and GSP regulations require that following GSA Board of Directors approval of a GSP, it be uploaded to the California Department of Water Resources and implemented by the GSA; and

WHEREAS, the SCV-GSA Board of Directors has reviewed and considered the public engagement process in support of the GSP, and has responded to public comments; and

WHEREAS, the SCV-GSA Board of Directors has reviewed and considered the GSP; and

WHEREAS, Section 10652 of the California Water Code provides that the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code) (CEQA) does not apply to the preparation and adoption of a GSP.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency hereby resolves as follows:

1. The Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan dated January 2022 is hereby adopted as amended by any changes incorporated by the SCV-GSA Board of Directors as a result of input received at the public hearing and ordered filed with the Secretary of the SCV-GSA Board of Directors.
2. The Secretary is directed to upload an electronic copy of the GSP to the Department of Water Resources website as required by the Act, prior to January 31, 2022.
3. The Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to make the GSP available for public review at the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) offices during normal business hours or on the SCV-GSA website scvgsa.org no later than thirty (30) days after filing a copy of the Plan with DWR.
4. Consistent with the Administrative Services Agreement between the SCV-GSA and SCV Water, the SCV Water General Manager is hereby authorized and directed to implement the GSP in accordance with the Act and to provide recommendations to the SCV-GSA Board of Directors regarding the necessary budgets, procedures, rules, regulations, or further actions to carry out the effective and equitable implementation of the GSP.
5. The SCV-GSA Board of Directors finds and determines that this resolution is not subject to CEQA pursuant to Water Code Section 10652 because CEQA does not apply to the preparation and adoption, including addenda thereto, of a GSP.

Item 4.3: Upon motion of Director Atkins seconded by Director Martin and carried, the Board approved authorization of SCV-GSA Letters of Support for Grant Applications by the following roll call votes:

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

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Item 4.4: Steve Cole provided a status update on the Bouquet Canyon Creek restoration.

Item 5: Upon the approved rotational schedule to appoint the SCV-GSA Board President and Vice President the following appointment was made: Maria Gutzeit, Board President and Russ Bryden, Vice President for the 2022-year term.

Item 6: Director Atkins requested a continuous update on the status of the Bouquet Canyon Creek.

Item 7: The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Eunie Kang, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

President of the Board



Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

DATE: March 30, 2022
TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors
FROM: SCV-GSA Staff
SUBJECT: Consideration to Adopt the Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 2021 Annual Report

DISCUSSION:

The State’s requirements for Groundwater Sustainability Plans include GSA submittal of annual reports by April 1, 2022. As such the first annual report which can be viewed on the SCV-GSA website: https://scvgsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/SCVGSA_2021-Annual-Report_Final_March2022.pdf has been prepared and is provided for your Board’s consideration and adoption at the March 30, 2022 special meeting.

Because this is the first GSP Annual Report for the Basin, this report documents and updates data from October 1, 2019 through September 31, 2021 (i.e., for water years 2020 and 2021), and reviews changes in groundwater basin storage since 2015. Reports convey monitoring and water use data to the DWR and to Basin stakeholders to provide data on performance of the Basin relative to the sustainable management criteria set forth in the GSP.

The following sections provide a high-level summary of report contents.

Summary of Basin Conditions and Data Gaps

Groundwater Elevation Sustainability Indicator

Representative Monitoring Sites (RMSs) are monitoring locations used to determine if Minimum Thresholds are reached. None of the RMSs showed groundwater elevations at or below their Minimum Threshold value during water years 2020 and 2021, which indicates that the Basin remains in a sustainable condition with respect to the groundwater elevation sustainability indicator.

Groundwater Storage Sustainability Indicator

The observed changes in storage and groundwater elevation hydrographs show that conditions during water years 2015 through 2021 were similar to those observed historically, with declining groundwater elevations and storage in certain parts of the Basin during low-rainfall periods (dry cycles in the Basin’s local hydrology), but stable or even rising groundwater elevations and storage in parts of the Basin under these same dry conditions because of careful management of groundwater pumping.

Moreover, the reduction in groundwater levels and storage are not indicative of unsustainable operation of the basin as has occurred in the past, groundwater levels and storage are anticipated to increase during the next cycle of normal or above-normal rainfall. These observations indicate that the Basin was being operated in a sustainable manner with respect to the groundwater level and groundwater storage sustainability indicators.

Land Subsidence Sustainability Indicator

Available DWR InSAR land subsidence data through June 2021 indicate a displacement of less than the single-year minimum threshold value of 0.1 foot across the Basin from the end of water year 2019 through the end of water year 2021. Additionally, the InSAR mapping for October 2016 through June 2021 indicates that during the most recent 5-year period for which the InSAR data are available, no land subsidence has occurred exceeding the minimum threshold of 0.5 foot over 5 years. This indicates that the basin is being operated sustainably with respect to the land subsidence sustainability indicator.

Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water Sustainability Indicator

Groundwater elevations in the three existing GDE monitoring wells (NLF-E, NLF-G3, and NLF-W5) did not reach or fall below the Minimum Thresholds for this sustainability indicator during water years 2020 and 2021. This indicates that the basin is being operated sustainably with respect to the Interconnected Surface Water Sustainability Indicator. Further, groundwater levels did not approach or fall below the GDE Trigger levels, meaning no GDE evaluations were warranted.

Degraded Groundwater Quality Sustainability Indicator

Analysis for the degraded groundwater quality sustainability indicator for salts and nutrients is underway at this time by SCV Water consultants preparing the 2022 update to the Salt Nutrient and Management Plan. This 2022 update includes analyses of inorganic water quality data relative to the water quality objectives (WQOs) and assimilative capacities established in the plan. These metrics also inform water quality concentrations relative to the GSPs minimum thresholds for this sustainability indicator. GSA staff will review this information when available (expected April 2022) and advise your Board of the findings relative to the sustainability indicator at your next meeting.

Data Gaps

The GSP identified a number of data gaps, including those related to water level and water quality from private wells, semi-annual land surface elevation data from LA County Public Works bench marks, need for new GDE wells and data collection, and new or updated wellhead elevation surveys. Efforts are under way to reduce data gaps over time consistent with the GSP implementation plan.

CONCLUSION:

The annual report finds that the basin conditions are above the minimum thresholds identified in the GSP and the basin is being operated sustainably. The results for the Groundwater Sustainability Indicator for Degraded Water Quality are pending and we will advise your Board of those results at its next meeting.

During the next year, data gaps are expected to be reduced further, such as relating to the need for water level and water quality data for domestic wells, water level data from GDE wells, and development of final land surface elevation control points in coordination with LA County Department of Public Works.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the SCV-GSA Board of Directors adopt the Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 2021 Annual Report.

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Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

DATE: March 16, 2022
TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors
FROM: SCV-GSA Staff
SUBJECT: Quarterly Status Update of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

OVERVIEW:

The SCV-GSA Board of Directors adopted the Agency’s Groundwater Sustainability Plan January 3, 2022. Consistent with the Administrative Services Agreement, SCV Water Staff continues to coordinate and manage administrative and technical aspects of GSP implementation. This board memo also provides a six month look ahead.

Current Status Groundwater Sustainability Plan Approval Process

Following adoption of the GSP in January, the team prepared the final GSP and uploaded it to the Department of Water Resources’ SGMA Portal as required. The GSP was posted on its website shortly after, commencing DWRs 75-day public comment period (closing April 23, 2022). Public comments provided to DWR will be posted on its SGMA Portal. Staff will consider comments on the GSP and respond to DWR comments if needed.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

Consistent with SGMA and GSA Board direction, staff has initiated activities to implement the GSP. Along with submitting the first annual report, as described in a separate report, staff has (1) initiated work to address data gaps identified in the GSP, (2) advanced monitoring, reporting and outreach efforts and (3) administered the State GSP Round 2 and Round 3 grants.

- **Address Data Gaps**
Contractors are installing piezometer and temperature probes this month. The team has found installation challenging in certain wetted sections of the river following December’s rain. For example, in one case the planned area for piezometer installation downstream from the confluence with Bouquet Creek was scoured heavily following December rain making drill rig access over the newly changed terrain infeasible, requiring relocation of the piezometer. Similarly, downstream of I-5, Five Point installed piezometers which were also affected by scour. The approaches to measure the river system for the GSP may need to be revised following future storm events.
- **Monitoring, Reporting, and Outreach**
Recently SCV Water coordinated with Five Point and teamed up to coordinate approaches for groundwater elevation measurements. Groundwater elevation data is

also being tracked against the GSP Minimum Thresholds. The representative monitoring sites for minimum thresholds show groundwater elevations are above minimum thresholds.

Regarding outreach we are preparing scope of work for CV Strategies to provide ongoing outreach services for Fiscal Year 2022-23. The focus will include outreach to small domestic well owners for water quality and well levels along with greater engagement of disadvantage communities.

- Promoting Best Water Use Practices
SCV Water continues to conduct outreach and education for drought awareness and water conservation. The GSA will perform outreach to private well operators during implementation to provide support in best water use practices as needed.
- Fiscal and Grants
Staff prepared quarterly reports and invoices pursuant to 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 \$1,002,609.

Six Month Look Ahead

Staff is drafting Fiscal Year 22-23 budget for Board consideration in June 2022. The budget will incorporate consultant contracts for implementation steps including for groundwater dependent ecosystem analysis, hydrogeologic support, filling data gaps, and outreach support.

CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITIES:

The downstream property owner has begun installation of several piezometers and temperature probes consistent with the proposed GSP monitoring approach and is working with the SCV-GSA to evaluate data under a proposed 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 maintain sustainability. Such lessons learned will be incorporated into the GSP that will be updated every five years.

CONCLUSIONS:

Significant progress has taken place this last quarter with Board adoption of the Final GSP and report upload to DWR. Installation of monitoring equipment along the Santa Clara River has begun, with early lessons learned about the magnitude of erosion and deposition following storm events. The first annual report has been completed on schedule. GSP implementation has begun on schedule and your Board will be asked to consider and adopt the FY 22/23 SCV GSA Budget at a special meeting in June. Consultant contracts will provide support during GSP implementation.



**Santa Clarita Valley
Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Memorandum**

DATE: March 30, 2022
TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors
FROM: SCV-GSA Staff
SUBJECT: Call a Special Board Meeting and Cancellation of the Regular Board Meeting on July 4, 2022

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The current schedule for Board consideration of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget review calls for a special board meeting to be scheduled in the month of June. After surveying the Board members, Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. has been determined to be the preferred meeting date.

Additionally, the Regular board meeting scheduled on July 4, 2022 is Independence Day and will be cancelled.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Directors schedule a SCV-GSA Special Board meeting on Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. for Board consideration of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget and cancel the Regular board meeting scheduled on July 4, 2022.