



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
MARIA GUTZEIT

VICE PRESIDENT
RUSS BRYDEN

WILLIAM COOPER
JASON GIBBS
GARY MARTIN
GINA NATOLI

PIOTR ORZECZOWSKI

ALTERNATE BOARD

JEFF FORD
SAMI KABAR
R.J. KELLY
LYNNE PLAMBECK
LAURENE WESTE

GENERAL COUNSEL

THOMAS BUNN III

TREASURER
ROCHELLE PATTERSON

SECRETARY
EUNIE KANG

**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**

Monday, January 9, 2023 at 2:30 PM

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This meeting is conducted in person at the address listed above. As a convenience to the public, members of the public may also participate virtually by using the **Agency’s Call-In Number 1-833-568-8864, Webinar ID: 160 022 5471 or Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link: <https://scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1600225471>**

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. However, in the event there is a disruption of service which prevents the Agency from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using either the call-in option or internet-based service, this meeting will not be postponed but will continue without remote participation. The remote participation option is provided as a convenience to the public and is not required.

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 12:00 PM the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Board members and posted on the SCV-GSA 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. 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.

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
2.1 * Approve Minutes of the October 3, 2022, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Regular Board of Directors Meeting	1

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
3.1 Bouquet Creek Status Update	
3.2 Presentation on Salt Nutrient Management Plan	
3.3 * Quarterly Status Update of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation	5

4. INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
4.1 ACWA General Session Membership Meeting held on November 30, 2022 – Oral Report by Director Gary Martin	

5. SPECIAL PRECEDURE

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
5.1 * Appointment of Board President and Vice President for the 2023 Year Term	11

6. DIRECTOR REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. 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 January 3, 2023

[This page intentionally left blank.]

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

A regular board meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SCV-GSA) was held in person at 2:30 PM on Monday, October 3, 2022. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the SCV-GSA preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: William C. Cooper, Sami Kabar (Alternate for Russ Bryden), Maria Gutzeit, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Russ Bryden, Jason Gibbs, Gina Natoli

Also present in person: SCV-GSA General Counsel Tom Bunn, SCV-GSA Board Secretary Eunie Kang; SCV Water Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Principal Water Resource Planner Rick Viergutz, Communications Manager Kathie Martin, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Rochelle Patterson, and Controller Amy Aguer. Attending virtually were Jeff Barry and John Porcello with GSI Water Solutions, Inc., and various members of the public.

President Gutzeit called the meeting to order at 2:31 PM. A quorum was present.

Item 1.3: There was public comment.

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

Director Cooper	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Gibbs	Absent	Director Natoli	Absent
President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Kabar	Yes		

Item 2.1: Upon motion of Director Orzechowski, seconded by Director Martin and carried, SCV Water Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Rochelle Patterson was appointed as new Treasurer by the following roll call votes:

Director Cooper	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Gibbs	Absent	Director Natoli	Absent
President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Kabar	Yes		

Item 2.2: On September 6, 2022, SCV Water Agency appointed Piotr Orzechowski as Board Director and Jeff Ford as Alternate Board Director to the SCV-GSA Board to replace B.J. Atkins and Jerry Gladbach for the remaining 2021-2023 term.

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

Director Cooper	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Gibbs	Absent	Director Natoli	Absent
President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Orzechowski	Abstain

Director Kabar Yes

Item 4.1: Upon motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board approved that each member agency approaches its leadership for approval of the member agency contribution at \$20,000 for the next five (5) fiscal years starting in fiscal year 2022-2023 by the following roll call votes:

Director Cooper	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Gibbs	Absent	Director Natoli	Absent
President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Kabar	Yes		

Item 4.2: Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Martin and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. GSA 2022-03 Authorizing the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency to Apply for and Execute a Grant Agreement on Behalf of the SCV-GSA with the California Department of Water Resources for a Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant by the following roll call votes:

Director Cooper	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Gibbs	Absent	Director Natoli	Absent
President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Kabar	Yes		

RESOLUTION NO. GSA 2022-03

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE SCV-GSA WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES FOR A SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT GRANT

WHEREAS, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has issued the Final SGM Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning Grants for implementation of GSPs; and

WHEREAS, the SGM application period is anticipated to begin in early October 2022 and close by November 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) is a member agency of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SCV-GSA); and

WHEREAS, on October 4, 2018, SCV Water and SCV-GSA entered into an Administrative Services Agreement requiring the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) to administer the SCV-GSA and provide the majority of funding to develop the state-required Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP); and

WHEREAS, prior to SCV Water making the SGM application to the Department of Water Resources it will adopt a resolution affirming it will provide required cost share, and apply for and execute the SGM grant agreement on behalf of the SCV-GSA if the SCV-GSA requests SCV Water perform this task; and

WHEREAS the SCV-GSA is committed to effectively implementing its adopted GSP including seeking funding to fill data gaps; and

WHEREAS, the minimum grant request under the SGM Grant is \$1,000,000 per the GSA groundwater basin and only one application per basin is allowed; and

WHEREAS, SCV Water is evaluating projects and requested grant amounts and anticipates a minimum grant request of \$5,300,000, but may request more grant funds if other eligible costs are identified; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the Administrative Services Agreement, if a SGM Grant is awarded, grant revenues will be used to offset SCV Water's costs to carry out SGM grant funded work; and

WHEREAS, the application process includes a requirement that the SCV-GSA adopt a resolution affirming it desires SCV Water to submit a grant application on its behalf.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors, the governing body of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Groundwater Sustainability Agency, resolves and orders as follows:

That SCV Water's General Manager, or designee, is authorized to:

- a. Submit an application, on behalf of the SCV GSA, to the California Department of Water Resources to obtain a grant under the 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program SGMA Implementation Round 2 Grant pursuant to the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) (Pub. Resource Code, § 80000 et seq.) and the California Budget Act of 2021 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240, § 80);
- b. Enter into an agreement to receive a grant funding for the: Expanded Monitoring in the Upper Santa Clara River Basin GSA; and
- c. Prepare the necessary data, conduct investigations, file such application, and execute a grant agreement and any future amendments (if required), submit invoices, and submit any reporting requirements with the California Department of Water Resources.

Item 4.3: Motion was made by Director Martin to approve staff recommendation on the board memo. But upon further discussion and suggestion made by the Board, Director Martin amended his motion and seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board approved staff recommendations (1) To offset the cost of the SCV GSA complying with the Executive Order, charge a \$100 fee for the initial well permit review, and if additional staff and/or consultant time is needed, for example ongoing discussions and analysis between the SCV GSA and its

consultants is needed (for example running the groundwater flow model and preparing a report) that the applicant reimburse costs through a written agreement with SCVGSA's administering agency, SCV Water. (2) Authorize GSA Staff to communicate its findings required in the Executive Order directly back to local agencies engaged in well permitting, such as Los Angeles County, in the event the evaluation is straightforward and it's clear no impacts from the well are expected. And if needed, to call a special board meeting to discuss any impact of concerns by the following roll call votes:

Director Cooper	Yes	Director Matin	Yes
Director Gibbs	Absent	Director Natoli	Absent
President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Kabar	Yes		

Item 4.4: Rick Viergutz presented a quarterly status report of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (SGMA) Implementation Activities.

Topic covered:

- Awaiting on DWR to provide comments on GSP
- Addressing data gaps
- GDE Monitoring
- Promoting best water use practices
- Governor's Executive Order regarding well permits
- Coordination with downstream

There was public comment on item 4.4.

Item 4.5: Salt Nutrient Management Plan presentation was postponed to the next SCV-GSA board meeting.

Item 5: No future agenda items requested.

Item 6: 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: January 3, 2023
TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors
FROM: SCV-GSA Staff
SUBJECT: Quarterly Status Update of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

OVERVIEW

Implementation of the adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plan is underway. 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

The SGMA regulations provide the Department of Water Resources up to two years following GSP submittal to provide comment to GSAs on their respective GSPs. We advised in the last quarterly report that since the GSP was uploaded to DWR and the public comment period closed and some public comments provided (April 23, 2022) no new information from DWR is available. We will advise the Board when DWR provides input on the GSP as well as review and consider its comments at that time.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

Consistent with SGMA and GSA Board direction, staff has initiated activities to implement the GSP. Key efforts are summarized below.

- Managing Consultant Contracts for GSP Implementation
GSI Water Solutions, Inc., Hydrogeology and Groundwater Modeling
Environmental Science Associates (ESA), Environmental/Biologic
CV Strategies, Stakeholder Engagement Consultant
Geosyntec, Data Management System

- Addressing Data Gaps
 - Evaluation of use of domestic wells for groundwater monitoring
A database of approximately 1,200 Department of Water Resources Well Completion Reports has been created and staff and the consultant team have conducted an initial filtering of the records by well type. Initial work has identified approximately 370 well completion reports in the basin are for domestic or irrigation wells, approximately 260 of these wells can be located by either address or coordinates. Other well types in these records reflect soil test borings,

monitoring wells (typically for environmental investigations), cathodic protection wells, and some agricultural wells. GSI Water Solutions and SCV Water are conducting further refinement of the records for evaluation of incorporation of private well use in a monitoring program (primarily in the canyon areas). Following this, the stakeholder engagement consultant will begin outreach in selected areas.

SCV Water, on behalf of the SCV GSA also submitted a grant application to evaluate the entire set of well records in a little more detail, including ascertaining wells status throughout the valley.

- Evaluation of non-de-minimis well locations for the purpose of extraction reporting

We will be cross checking well records against a map showing our current understanding of locations of non-de-minimis wells. Following this, staff will share map with SCV Water's Operations team, and LA County's team that issues well permits to see if additional details regarding non-de-minimis wells are available. GSI is evaluating existing options in other GSAs for well registration and metering and will make recommendations. Staff will share these policy level recommendations with the Board and after Board discussion, the stakeholder engagement consultant will begin outreach for the purpose of conveying information about extraction reporting and well registration.

- Evaluation of areas for land subsidence monitoring

SCV Water has been coordinating with LA County to work on tying in this new monitoring program with their long-standing benchmark monitoring program. SCV Water staff has located 10 of the County's benchmarks and will be updating their elevations as a starting point for the GSP monitoring plan. Approximately 10 more locations will be chosen for the subsidence monitoring program.

A map has been prepared that includes County benchmark elevations, SCV Water wells, the UNAVCO plate boundary station, and a draft subsidence evaluation area based on areas where future groundwater elevations are anticipated to be lower than in the past.

Next steps include identifying options, if any, for coordination of monitoring with LA County and others. We will also be talking with the City and County to evaluate any subsidence-sensitive critical infrastructure known by them. Following that step, new subsidence benchmarks will be installed if needed, and the subsidence monitoring program will be fully implemented and will include bi-yearly measurements taken at all benchmark locations.

- Groundwater Flowmodel Refinement

Consistent with previous discussions with the Board and stakeholders leading up to completion of the GSP, groundwater flowmodel refinements will continue to be made when better information becomes available. During the June Board

meeting we advised the Board that additional model refinement related to GDE Triggers was necessary and underway.

GDE monitoring is a new process statewide and locally it required new instrumentation in the river channel to help fill important data gaps to improve our understanding of groundwater conditions.

Data collected from this new monitoring well network, and recent land surface elevations is informing updates to the groundwater flowmodel. Specifically, the groundwater flowmodel now includes empirical data from the relatively new GDE wells. Our understanding of the alluvial geology along the Santa Clara River near Interstate 5 has been improved with field observations. Further, recent Lidar survey data was collected and incorporated into the flowmodel (adjusting the riverbed elevation) and some riverbed transects have been developed as a cross-check to the Lidar data. Based on the additional new information, the flowmodel has been adjusted to better reflect field conditions. Flowmodel calibration and refinement is continuing, in part to identify any additional information needs. We anticipate completing the flowmodel update in time to present it to your Board by the middle of 2023.

- Data Management System (DMS)
 - SCV Water has initiated a contract with Geosyntec Consultants to take the Microsoft Access DMS created for the SCV-GSA and convert it to a web accessible database that allows for multiple users and access privileges. This new tool will be used moving forward, and it allows for more efficient creation of routine reports and faster data querying than the older system.

- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem monitoring.
 - At our last meeting, we described that despite the GDE Triggers needing refinement to better reflect field conditions, we set forth with monitoring to develop baseline information for the GDE Evaluation process. Here work included reviewing biologic conditions upstream from I-5 in three locations. Initial findings of the field work identified varying signs of drought stress on the outer margins of the mapped areas, varying from no stress to minor stress, and in one case moderate stress. This baseline data can be reviewed against findings in future years and over time collected data will help the GSA better understand trends.
 - Consistent with the GDE Evaluation Process we asked GSI Water Solutions to help describe groundwater conditions and trends in these GDE areas for our consultant ESA. ESA has had a more senior biologist review groundwater elevations and make observations about the GDE conditions and management actions are not recommended.

- Monitoring, Reporting, and Outreach

SCV Water continues its coordination with Five Point on groundwater elevation measurements. Groundwater elevation data is also being tracked against the GSP

Minimum Thresholds. The representative monitoring sites at groundwater production wells show groundwater elevations are above minimum thresholds.

- 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.

- County Well Permitting

At our last meeting we shared with the Board that there was interest from two separate property owners in different parts of the basin in obtaining well permits. We talked about the Governor's Executive Order that required GSAs be involved with local well permitting agency's in reviewing and potentially conditioning new well permits. The Board felt policy development was needed to administer the new State requirement. Since our last meeting there has been no activity on well permits from applicants. Staff recently checked with LA County's team that oversees permit issuance in this basin and LA County informed us they are reviewing well permit requests to see if any are made in this basin, and none have been made since we began tracking this item. At this stage, since it appears there is no well permitting activity, we will continue to research specifics to assist with determining the best path for policy development.

- Fiscal and Grants

On December 16, 2022, SCV Water, on behalf of the SCV-GSA submitted a grant request to the Department of Water Resources' Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program for \$5.3M to provide significant funding for GSP implementation, including deep monitoring wells. The State's tentative schedule identifies June 2023 as the date it will issue public notification of draft awards.

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, DWR has authorized reimbursement of \$1,083,725. The term of the grant was also extended through June 2023 to provide additional time for the grant funded infiltration testing and pilot study work.

Six Month Look Ahead

Efforts to refine and implement our approaches for filling data gaps are under way and described above and are continuing. Planned efforts are described more fully in the GSP and include but are not limited to outreach to domestic well operators, extraction reporting, groundwater flowmodel refinement, water quality testing, land surface monitoring, and GDE monitoring. The GSA's second annual report will also be prepared. We also expect to hear back from DWR regarding our recent grant application submittal. We will regularly track groundwater elevations and other metrics relative to the Sustainable Management Criteria and provide regular reports to the Board. We will continue to work on incorporating more field data into the groundwater flowmodel and will provide updates on GDE Trigger refinements at our next meeting.

CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITIES

The downstream property owner installed 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 cost and time benefits with this approach as well as potentially gaining insights through cooperative data evaluation.

CONCLUSIONS

The representative monitoring sites at groundwater production wells show groundwater elevations are above minimum thresholds. Basin conditions will continue to be tracked. Monitoring of newly installed monitoring equipment along the Santa Clara River continues and is providing valuable information. Important work is also underway with incorporating field data in the groundwater flowmodel to support improved model calibration and updates to GDE Triggers. Significant progress has taken place implementing the GSP this last quarter with the initiation of work under new consultant contracts. Coordination with LA County and the City on implementation continues.

[This page intentionally left blank.]



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

DATE: January 9, 2023
TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors
FROM: SCV-GSA Staff
SUBJECT: Appointment of Board President and Vice President for the 2023 Year Term

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

At the April 5, 2021 meeting, the Board approved the rotational schedule to appoint the SCV-GSA Board President and Vice President, with the understanding that a Board Director could pass on the option if decided. Maria Gutzeit was appointed Board President and Russ Bryden was appointed Vice President for the 2022-year term.

Below is the approved rotational schedule.

SEAT	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
SCVWA 1 - Cooper					VP	Pres		
SCVWA 2 - Martin			VP	Pres				
SCVWA 3 – Orzechowski							VP	Pres
SCVWA 4 - Gutzeit	VP	Pres						
LAWW - Bryden		VP	Pres					VP
City of SC -Gibbs				VP	Pres			
LACDRP - Natoli	Pres					VP	Pres	

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Directors appoint Russ Bryden as Board President and Gary Martin as Board Vice President for the 2023-year term per the approved rotational schedule.