BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PRESIDENT
RUSS BRYDEN
VICE PRESIDENT
GARY MARTIN
WILLIAM COOPER
JASON GIBBS
MARIA GUTZEIT
GINA NATOLI
PIOTR ORZECHOWSKI
ALTERNATE BOARD
JEFF FORD
SAMI KABAR
LYNNE PLAMBECK
LAURENE WESTE
GENERAL COUNSEL
THOMAS BUNN III
TREASURER
ROCHELLE PATTERSON
SECRETARY
EUNIE KANG

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR 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, October 2, 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: 161 258 8847 or Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link: https://scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1612588847** 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. SPECIAL PROCEDURE

ITEMS			PAGE
2.1	*	New Appointments and Reappointments of the SCV-GSA Board of Directors and Alternate Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 Term	1

3. 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
3.1	*	Approve Minutes of the July 27, 2023, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Special Board of Directors Meeting	7

4. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

ITEMS			PAGE
4.1		Quarterly Status Update of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation	
4.2	*	Status on Model Calibration and Anticipated Next Steps toward Revision of Sustainable Management Criteria for Groundwater Levels	9

5. SCV-GSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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 scvgsa.org.

Posted on September 25, 2023

[This page intentionally left blank.]

ITEM NO. 2.1

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

DATE: October 2, 2023

TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors

FROM: SCV-GSA Staff

SUBJECT: New Appointments and Reappointments of the SCV-GSA Board of Directors and Alternate Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 Term

---

SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority (JPA) under section 6.5 each Director is appointed to serve for a term of two years.

The Member that appointed each Director may reappoint the Director for multiple terms at the pleasure of the Member. As required by the JPA, the Members shall submit any changes in Director positions, or Director reappointments, to the Board Secretary via written notice signed by an authorized representative of the Member.

We are pleased to announce the new appointment and reappointment of the SCV-GSA Board of Directors and Alternate Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 term from the JPA Members.

<u>As of January 1, 2024:</u>

- Russ Bryden, L.A. County Waterworks District No. 36 – Reappointed
- William C. Cooper, SCV Water Agency – Reappointed
- Jason Gibbs, City of Santa Clarita – Reappointed
- Maria Gutzeit, SCV Water Agency – Reappointed
- Dirk Marks, SCV Water Agency – Newly Appointed
- Gary Martin, SCV Water Agency – Reappointed
- Gina Natoli, L.A. County Department of Regional Planning – Reappointed
- Jeff Ford, SCV Water Agency – Reappointed (Alternate)
- Sami Kabar, L.A. County Waterworks District No. 36 – Reappointed (Alternate)
- Piotr Orzechowski, SCV Water Agency – Newly Appointed (Alternate)
- Ken Petersen, SCV Water Agency – Newly Appointed (Alternate)
- Laurene Weste, City of Santa Clarita – Reappointed (Alternate)

Attachment

[This page intentionally left blank.]

AMY J. BODEK, AICP
Director,
Regional Planning

DENNIS SLAVIN
Chief Deputy Director,
Regional Planning

June 22, 2023

Board of Directors
Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency
26501 Summit Circle
Santa Clarita CA 91350

Attention: Rick Viergutz

Dear Directors:

DESIGNATION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2024-2026 TERM

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on September 11, 2018, appointed the Director of the Department of Regional Planning or her designee as the Los Angeles County Director of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA"). I hereby designate Gina Natoli as the Los Angeles County Director of the GSA, effective immediately.

Sincerely,

AMY J. BODEK, AICP
Director of Regional Planning

AJB:DLS:GMN:gmn

Enclosures

c: County Counsel

S_EO 06_22_2023_L_SCVGROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY

27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350

(661) 297-1600 | yourSCVwater.com

August 2, 2023

From: SCV Water Agency

RE: SCV Water Agency Appointment and Reappointment of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Agency Board of Directors and Alternate Directors for Term 2024-2026

To: Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Agency Board

On Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at the SCV Water Agency's Regular Board Meeting the SCV Water Agency Board of Directors appointed and reappointed the following as representatives of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Agency Board:

- William Cooper, Board Director
- Maria Gutzeit, Board Director
- Dirk Marks, Board Director
- Gary Martin, Board Director
- Jeff Ford, Alternate Board Director
- Piotr Orzechowski, Alternate Board Director
- Ken Petersen, Alternate Board Director

If you have any questions, please contact Rick Viergutz, Principal Water Resources Planner at 661-297-1600.

Sincerely,

SCV Water Agency

Stephen L. Cole
Assistant General Manager

City of
SANTA CLARITA

23920 Valencia Boulevard • Santa Clarita, California 91355-2196
Phone: (661) 259-2489 • FAX: (661) 259-8125
www.santa-clarita.com

August 3, 2023

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

To whom it may concern:

Subject: SCV GSA Board Appointment and Reappointment

This letter is to inform you that Mayor Jason Gibbs was appointed as a Director and Councilmember Laurene Weste was appointed as an Alternate to the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board representing the City of Santa Clarita as part of the City Council's review and adoption of the City Council Committee Appointments on January 24, 2023.

The appointments are reviewed and approved on an annual basis by the City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (661) 255-4390 or mcusick@santa-clarita.com.

Sincerely,

Mcusick

Mary Cusick
City Clerk

MC:DLS:MH:sk
S:\MS\Masis\letters\SCVGSA Appointments

cc: Jerrid McKenna, Director of Neighborhood Services
Darin Seegmiller, Environmental Services Manager
Masis Hagobian, Intergovernmental Relations Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
http://dpw.lacounty.gov

MARK PESTRELLA, Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: WW-0

September 12, 2023

Board of Directors
Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

Attention Ms. Eunie Kang

Dear Board of Directors:

REAPPOINTMENT OF BOARD DIRECTOR AND ALTERNATE BOARD DIRECTOR FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 36

I, Russ Bryden, Assistant Deputy Director for Los Angeles County Public Works, will continue as the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Director and Sami Kabar, Principal Engineer, will continue as the alternate Board Director for the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36 during the 2024-26 term.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (626) 300-3300 or rdryden@pw.lacounty.gov.

Very truly yours,

RUSS BRYDEN
Assistant Deputy Director
Waterworks Division

RB:sb
H:\WWHOME\SBRENES\Russ\Reappointment Board Director & Alternate Board Director SCV-GSA.docx

DRAFT

ITEM NO. 3.1

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency – July 27, 2023

A special 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 Thursday, July 27, 2023. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the SCV-GSA preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Russ Bryden, Jeff Ford (Alternate for William C. Cooper), Maria Gutzeit, Gary Martin, Gina Natoli, Piotr Orzechowski, Laurene Weste (Alternate for Jason Gibbs)

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jason Gibbs and William C. Cooper

Also present in person: SCV-GSA General Counsel Tom Bunn, SCV-GSA Board Secretary Eunie Kang; SCV Water Agency Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Principal Water Resource Planner Rick Viergutz, Communications Manager Kevin Strauss and various members of the public.

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

Item 1.3: There was no public comment.

Item 1.4: There were no changes to the July 27, 2023 Board Agenda and it was accepted as presented.

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

President Bryden	Yes	Director Natoli	Yes
Director Ford	Abstain	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Gutzeit	Yes	Director Weste	Yes
Vice President Martin	Yes		

Item 3.1: Upon motion of Director Gutzeit, seconded by Director Ford and carried, the Board adopted the New or Replacement Well Review Process Required by Governor's Executive Order N-3-23 with the recommended changes made by Director Natoli by the following roll call votes:

President Bryden	Yes	Director Natoli	Yes
Director Ford	Yes	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Gutzeit	Yes	Director Weste	Yes
Vice President Martin	Yes		

Item 4: Steve Cole reported on the following:

- Bouquet Canyon Creek – On August 24, 2023, the Wildlife Conservation Board is set to consider the grant application for the Bouquet Canyon Creek Recovery Project. The grant amount of $12,067.00 will help fund for planning, design, and environmental compliance.
- CEMEX Mine Application of Appropriation of Water – Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo bill, AB 1631, would require the State Water Resources Control Board to reopen the protest period for applications by a mine that are still pending for 30 years or more. This would allow for additional protests in the Cemex application.

Item 5: No future agenda items requested.

Item 6: The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 PM.

Eunie Kang, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

President of the Board

ITEM NO. 4.2

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

DATE: October 2, 2023

TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors

FROM: SCV-GSA Staff

SUBJECT: Status on Model Calibration and Anticipated Next Steps toward Revision of Sustainable Management Criteria for Groundwater Levels

---

SUMMARY

The technical team is preparing, for Board consideration, specific revisions to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan's (GSP) Sustainable Management Criteria related to groundwater elevation Minimum Thresholds, Measurable Objectives, and GDE Trigger Levels. However, we are advised by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to wait to provide proposed revisions until the GSA receives comments on the adopted GSP. These comments are expected in January 2024.

As part of GSP implementation and the efforts to fill data gaps, new and/or updated information has been input into the groundwater flow model. The flow model now includes additional information about land surface elevations (LiDAR survey) and well reference point elevations (updated professional surveys), previously unavailable groundwater elevation data from GDE wells that were installed after submittal of the GSP, additional years of water level and weather records, and adjustments to the thickness and hydraulic conductivity of the Alluvial Aquifer in one particular area based on recent drilling information. Accordingly, the groundwater flow model has been recalibrated to reflect this additional information. The newly calibrated flow model better simulates groundwater levels, such as near GDE monitoring wells.

The newly collected data indicate that some groundwater elevation thresholds will need to be adjusted to account for new survey data and improved model calibration, while still maintaining the approach used in the adopted GSP to set Sustainable Management Criteria related to groundwater elevation Minimum Thresholds and GDE Triggers.

Because nearly two years have passed since GSP adoption, this Board memo reviews certain key concepts in setting the initial Sustainable Management Criteria related to groundwater elevations that were presented and described in the GSP.

BACKGROUND

This Board Memo reviews the approach used in the adopted GSP to set Minimum Thresholds and GDE Trigger Levels, provides a quick summary of the adopted GSP's look at future sustainability, the importance of monitoring and adaptive management in addition to use of flowmodels. Those sections are followed by discussions of the efforts that have occurred following GSP submittal to fill data gaps, calibrate the flow model, and evaluate potential

adjustments to Minimum Thresholds and GDE Triggers. Lastly, the memo describes the general process to amend GSPs as well as recent communications with DWR about submittal of plan amendments.

Trip Down Memory Lane - Setting Initial Sustainable Management Criteria Related to groundwater Elevations:
Because the nature of historic groundwater elevation data in the basin varied, depending on location in the basin, different approaches were used to set Minimum Thresholds for groundwater elevations.

- At the eastern end of the Alluvial Aquifer, the GSP pumping plan contemplated less pumping than historically occurred. In this area, the GSP used historical water level data to establish the values of the Minimum Thresholds. Specifically, this is in the area that extends from well Q2 (Bouquet Canyon Road and Santa Clara River) upstream to the Pinetree wellfield.

- At the far west end of the basin (also in the Alluvial Aquifer), only sporadic historical water level data from private agricultural production wells was available. In that area, the GSP set the Minimum Thresholds using model results for future pumping. Although modeling analyses indicate that groundwater elevations were likely historically lower in the 1950s when the basin was in a primarily agricultural condition and not urbanized, the GSP team felt it wasn't appropriate to use those early-year historical simulation results to set the Sustainable Management Criteria because that was a different land-use and water-use condition than will occur under future basin urbanization and water use. Instead, the flow model was used to simulate future conditions reflecting urbanization and future groundwater pumping.

- Because GDE monitoring wells had not been constructed (GDE-A through GDE-E), and because the historical groundwater elevation data from former Five Point production wells (NLF-E, -G3, and -W5) was unavailable, we used the flow model and associated future conditions reflecting urbanization to set Minimum Thresholds during development of the GSP.

- We also used model simulations of historical conditions to set the GDE Trigger Levels at (or 2 feet above) what the model was simulating as the historically low conditions in those locations (focusing on recent drought periods, rather than using past droughts that occurred when the basin was agricultural and not urbanized).

- Elsewhere, future pumping from both the Alluvial Aquifer and the Saugus pumping are greater than historical, so we used model results to simulate future conditions reflecting urbanization to establish Minimum Thresholds.

Big Picture Findings of the Adopted GSP's Flow Model Results:
As described in the adopted GSP, the flow model simulations of future conditions through 2042 indicate that chronic declines in groundwater levels and groundwater storage are not projected to occur over long periods, which indicates that SCV Water's Basin Operating Plan for the Basin is unlikely to cause an overdraft condition in the local groundwater system (i.e. it is unlikely to exceed the basin yield) in the future under assumed climatic conditions.

A lack of chronic declines in groundwater levels and groundwater storage was also observed in the historical and current water budgets, as well as in the two other projected water budgets that simulated no climate change and a 2070 level of climate change (Adopted GSP Executive Summary 3.1).

Importance of Monitoring and Adaptive Management along with Flow Model Simulations:
Groundwater flowmodel simulations are an important part of planning, and GSP development, and the newly calibrated groundwater flowmodel does a better job simulating groundwater elevations in key areas. However, groundwater flowmodels are not the only tool used in groundwater basin management. This is why the GSP has Minimum Thresholds and GDE Triggers that are monitored, which if reached require certain evaluations to be conducted. Evaluations could potentially result in adaptive management actions such as reducing groundwater pumping in some areas, water conservation, advancing groundwater recharge projects, or importing more water for example.

Filling Data Gaps:
Implementation steps of the adopted GSP include identifying and filling hydrologic and hydrogeologic data gaps to improve our understanding of the groundwater basin. During the development of the GSP, certain data gaps were known but could not be filled in the time available. These included piezometer installation (GDE wells), additional lithological information from GDE borings, wellhead reference point elevations surveys, and updated land surface elevations.

Following installation of two Santa Clara River GDE piezometers upstream of I-5, SCV Water staff conducted a limited elevation survey of the piezometer reference point elevations and certain local topographic features, such as the elevation of the river channel where water was flowing. This work was done as an initial check of the groundwater elevations and associated GDE Trigger Levels. Coordination with the downstream landowner, Five Point, also took place later as it installed piezometers and conducted additional limited survey work. Following this work, it became clear that the initial GDE Trigger Levels would need to be refined.

Subsequent work included using a licensed land surveyor to survey and document wellhead reference point elevations of all SCV Water production wells, and to prepare some transects across the river channel in two areas, through GDE-A and GDE-B. Later a LiDAR survey was conducted by others for SCV Water, and the detailed elevation data from this survey was obtained and included in the model.

Following those surveying-based activities, data from borings helped refine the thickness of the alluvium near I-5 bridge and the Santa Clara River, and lithologic and water level data from a well called VWD-I (which is north of Round Mountain) helped inform the local aquifer parameters. Groundwater flow model hydrologic records were updated from 2019, through 2022, meaning that new groundwater elevation data was added into the model, including from the new GDE wells, and additional rainfall and pumping data were added as well.

Model Calibration:
The addition of important new data to the groundwater flow model described above, consistent with GSP implementation steps, created the need to recalibrate the flowmodel. The same historical groundwater pumping volumes described in the adopted GSP's discussion of model calibration were run in the updated flow model. Groundwater flow model output near the newly constructed GDE wells was compared to the actual groundwater elevations collected at the GDE wells during the process of refining the flow model's calibration at the GDE wells. Flow

model adjustments were made until the flow model better simulated measured groundwater elevations.

Anticipated Adjustments Under Review:
Based on our recent review of the adopted GSP's pumping plan in the newly calibrated flow model, adjustments of Minimum Threshold groundwater elevations are anticipated. Furthermore, adjustments of GDE Trigger Levels are anticipated. In all cases these adjustments are related to corrections of land surface elevations and/or improved model calibration to field-measured groundwater elevations.

General Process to Amend GSPs:
The DWR has generally advised SCV-GSA staff that amendments to GSPs require the same type of process utilized with adoption of the first GSP, which means that the GSA shall provide written notice to the City and County advising them that a plan update will be considered. The GSA also should encourage active involvement with stakeholders in the process. The plan amendment would be considered at a public board meeting. Following GSA adoption of any plan amendment, the DWR must then evaluate any plan amendments.

Role of Department of Water Resources (DWR) in Plan Amendments and Process:
During a recent coordination call with our local DWR Point of Contact where we inquired about DWR's desired process for GSA's to update their GSPs, DWR provided valuable information:

1) GSAs across the state are very interested in preparing GSP amendments as they evaluate new data and fill data gaps. Given this high level of interest, and need for guidance, DWR plans to release a guidance document in October or November of this year laying out its desired process for GSAs to provide GSP amendments.
2) DWR still plans to provide all remaining GSP plan reviews by the end of January 2024, including for the SCV-GSA.
3) DWR "highly recommends" that GSAs do not submit plan amendments until GSAs review DWR's comments on submitted plans. From a practical perspective, DWR may not approve any plan amendments unless GSA's first respond to DWR comments on submitted plans.

CONCLUSION

Significant progress has been made in filing data gaps and updating the groundwater flow model. The flow model does a better job predicting groundwater elevations in key areas now. Initial indications are that Minimum Thresholds and GDE Trigger Levels will require adjustments to make them more consistent with the newly collected field data while remaining consistent with the approach in the adopted GSP. The team will prepare a high-level summary of the key updated flow model findings and compare those to the adopted GSP's flow model findings to determine if there are significant big picture differences so that those can be identified and shared.

Data collection and GDE evaluations will continue during this calendar year. The DWR has "strongly advised" GSAs not to submit plan amendments until GSA responds to its comments on the adopted GSPs. Amendments to GSPs require a similar process to that used in adopting the first GSP.

With the recent finalization of the Department of Water Resource's award to the SCV GSA for $5.3M new Saugus Aquifer monitoring wells will be installed and monitored, further improving our understanding of the basin and supporting future model improvements.

RECOMMENDATION

Complete near-term flow model work, and based on the DWR recent advisement, consider DWR comments on the adopted GSP before submitting any amendments to the GSP. Following receipt of DWR comments on the adopted GSP, develop a process and schedule to advance any amendments to the GSP for SCV-GSA Board consideration.