

# Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

May 31, 2018

## Meetings Minutes

Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, 4689 CA-166, New Cuyama, CA 93254

### PRESENT:

Jaffe, Roberta – Chair  
Kelly, Brenton – Vice Chair  
Alvarado, Claudia  
DeBranch, Brad  
Draucker, Louise  
Furstenfeld, Jake  
Haslett, Joe  
Post, Mike (*telephonic*)  
Valenzuela, Hilda Leticia  
Beck, Jim – Executive Director  
Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

### ABSENT:

None

#### 1. Call to order

Chair Roberta Jaffe called the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) to order at 4:02 pm.

#### 2. Roll call

Hallmark Group Project Coordinator Taylor Blakslee called roll of the Committee (shown above).

#### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Jaffe.

#### 4. Approval of minutes

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Executive Director Jim Beck presented the April 26, 2018 SAC minutes. Minor editorial changes were suggested, and a motion was made by Committee Member Brenton Kelly to approve the revised minutes. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Brad DeBranch and passed by the Committee.

#### 5. Report of the General Counsel

Legal Counsel Joe Hughes provided an update on insurance items. Mr. Hughes stated that the SAC's insurance requirement is being met under the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's (CBGSA) policy. He also reported that a safety program is not required since the CBGSA does not have any employees.

**6. Report of the Executive Director**

**a. Report of the Executive Director**

Executive Director Jim Beck reported that he met with CBGSA Board of Directors Chairman Derek Yurosek and SAC Chair Roberta Jaffe to formalize how the SAC provides a report to the Board. Chair Yurosek suggested that a brief, summary-type written report, that presents both positions on possible contentious items, would be helpful to the CBGSA Board. Beginning this month and moving forward, Chair Jaffe and Vice Chair Brenton Kelly will prepare a written report that will be distributed as an addendum to the Board packet following the SAC meeting. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with SAC input on the various Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) components/issues that will better equip the Board when making decisions on GSP-related issues.

Mr. Beck reported that he participated on a call regarding the Santa Barbara Integrate Regional Water Management program (IRWM). The IRWM group contacted GSAs in Santa Barbara County to explain the purpose of the IRWM group and to inform the GSAs of the grants that they will be applying for in 2019 for the upcoming implementation period. The initial fee to join the IRWM program is \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year with potential variance, depending on the size of the organization, quarterly meetings, and staff time to process document review and approval process. Costs to pursue possible implementation grants have not been budgeted within the Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget, but there are contingency funds that could be applied towards these.

-----  
*Committee member Joe Haslett arrived at 4:15 p.m.*  
-----

Mr. Beck reported that the Hallmark Group is in the process of submitting the necessary documentation to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to receive the grant funds awarded earlier this month.

Mr. Beck let the SAC know that the County of Kern reported that they will be paying their assessment and remaining as a voting member on the CBGSA. Mr. Beck also reported that Kern County will be going through a county-wide election due to a lawsuit. Due to the redistricting of County supervisorial districts, Supervisor David Couch no longer represents the Cuyama Valley and Supervisor Zack Scrivner is the new CBGSA Board member for Kern County. Mr. Scrivner will recommend to his Board that they pay their full assessment of \$38,567.66.

Mr. Beck noted that the June assessments will be sent out soon and will be the last participant assessment since DWR reimbursements are expected to start in the 4th quarter of 2018.

Ms. Lynn Carlisle asked Mr. Beck if he is aware of the status of the IRWM grant issued to the Cuyama Community Services District (CCSD). Beck said that he is aware of this, and Ms. Carlisle offered to provide more information on that grant if needed.

Ms. Carlisle asked if the reports will be hosted on the website for public review and Mr. Beck confirmed they will.

**b. SGMA Educational Item: What is Sustainability?**

On June 6, 2018, GSP Consultant Woodard & Curran Project Manager Brian Van Lienden provided

an update on the educational item entitled “What is Sustainability?” to the joint meeting of CBGSA and SAC. His presentation included an overview of sustainability indicators and the metrics to assess these indicators as required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Chair Jaffe let attendees know that DWR re-assessed the Cuyama Basin from a medium-priority to a high-priority basin and one of the predominant reasons listed was subsidence issues. Mr. Van Lienden said that they will look closely at subsidence issues as they develop the GSP. Committee member Jake Furstenfeld asked if there is a baseline for these indicators. Mr. Van Lienden replied that SGMA requires a water budget for 10 recent years and this will be the baseline for water levels. Committee member Joe Haslett asked how the subsidence areas will be treated. Van Lienden replied that the SAC will have to determine the appropriate actions and goals for each Water Management Area (WMA). Mr. Van Lienden said that W&C can reach out to residents for goals at the upcoming workshop on June 6th, but the baseline is where we currently are. Mr. Beck commented that this is the stakeholder process and that the CBGSA gets to develop the objectives with stakeholder consensus.

Ms. Lynn Carlisle asked why the baseline is listed as January 1, 2015 and Mr. Beck replied that the baseline is the ending point for data collection that was provided by DWR.

Ms. Lynn Carlisle asked what the timeframe for deciding WMAs is, and Mr. Van Lienden stated by the end of summer. Mr. Beck commented that the modelling results will assist in determining if WMAs exist. Committee member Brenton Kelly asked how a minimum threshold is set when there are different depths to groundwater levels occurring naturally across a basin. Mr. Van Lienden said that the CBGSA will need to develop a monitoring network and use representative wells to address the natural groundwater level contours.

Committee Member Draucker asked how the models account for the extreme variability in rainfall. Mr. Van Lienden said that they will be looking at broad hydrology that will allow us to see how the Basin responds to various conditions.

Ms. Carlisle asked who will determine the financial component of achieving measurable objectives. Mr. Beck said that this group will determine the financial component and he expects Woodard & Curran (W&C) to develop a portfolio of options to achieve the measurable objectives the group decides on. Mr. Van Lienden noted that they will be talking about potential programs for meeting measurable objectives in the near future. Vice Chair Kelly asked if this type of analysis is budgeted in the GSP and Mr. Van Lienden confirmed that it is.

Committee Member Draucker asked who enforces various entities to comply with measurable objectives, and Mr. Beck said the CBGSA will. He let the SAC know there are enforcement actions that GSAs are allowed to put into effect, but not police authority.

**c. Board of Directors Agenda Review**

Mr. Beck provided an overview of the June 6, 2018 CBGSA Board of Directors agenda.

**7. Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

**a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update**

Mr. Van Lienden provided an update on GSP activities, which is included in the SAC packet.

Chair Jaffe asked what the validation process is for data received and Mr. Van Lienden replied that W&C will look at the GSP activities in the context of the other data received. He also noted that this process is currently being implemented. Committee Member Joe Haslett asked if there is a requirement regarding the quality of well data received since well construction could significantly affect the quality of the data, and Mr. Van Lienden said that there are requirements, but W&C may need assistance in determining the level that specific wells are functioning at.

Ms. Carlisle asked why the SAC does not have data for pumping levels and Ms. Jaffe commented that landowners do not always like to provide pumping levels. Mr. Van Lienden mentioned that W&C can estimate pumping levels, and Mr. Beck noted that this could be a data gap we identify in the GSP and should formulate ways to improve this data going forward.

Committee Member Mike Post said that he is unaware of anything that precludes W&C from developing infrastructure to measure surface water flow.

Committee Member Haslett asked if W&C is taking the seasonability of crops into account. Mr. Van Lienden said they are looking at monthly time periods, which will capture the seasonability factor.

Ms. Carlisle asked if climate change will be factored in the plan. Mr. Van Lienden said yes, and DWR will provide climate data for this variable.

Committee Member DeBranch asked if the Irrigation Training & Research Center (ITRC) data will be publicly available, and Mr. Van Lienden replied that it will.

**b. Technical Forum Update**

Mr. Van Lienden provided an overview of the May 4, 2018 technical forum call. A summary of the issues discussed is provided in the Board packet.

**c. Description of the Plan Area**

Mr. Van Lienden provided an overview of the comments received on the Description of the Plan Area.

Ms. Carlisle asked if a red-line-strikeout version of the Description of the Plan Area could be distributed, and Mr. Van Lienden replied that they will distribute this.

Mr. Beck discussed sending out the comment matrix to those that provided comments to review responses to their comments, and then the Hallmark Group will send out a red-line strikeout version for review before a final draft is presented at the June 28, 2018 SAC meeting and July 11, 2018 Board meeting.

**d. Stakeholder Engagement Update**

GSP Outreach the Catalyst Group's Mary Currie provided an update on stakeholder engagement activity.

A discussion occurred regarding upcoming SAC educational items, and Mr. Van Lienden said that a groundwater monitoring network may be a potential discussion topic. Another education topic identified was a debrief of the upcoming public workshop. Lastly, Mr. Van Lienden said the updated land use and evapotranspiration data is another possible topic for discussion.

Ms. Currie reported that Ms. Carlisle distributed over 500 copies of the upcoming public workshop flyer to residents in the Cuyama Valley.

Committee Member Furstenfeld suggested developing a simple flyer that defines what each different water-related group in Cuyama is and does to clarify any confusion. Ms. Currie said she will work on drafting this.

**8. Items for Upcoming Sessions**

Nothing to report.

**9. Committee Forum**

Nothing to report.

**10. Public comment for items not on the Agenda**

Nothing to report.

**11. Adjourn**

Chair Jaffe adjourned the meeting at 6:04 pm.

I, Jim Beck, Executive Director of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the meeting held on Thursday, May 31, 2018, by the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee.

**Jim Beck**

Dated: June 28, 2018