

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

November 6, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

Meetings Minutes

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

PRESENT:

Jaffe, Roberta – Chair
Kelly, Brenton – Vice Chair
DeBranch, Brad
Draucker, Louise
Haslett, Joe
Valenzuela, Hilda Leticia
Valenzuela, Jose
Beck, Jim – Executive Director
Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Furstenfeld, Jake
Post, Mike

1. Call to Order

Chair Roberta Jaffe called the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) to order at 2:00 p.m.

Chair Jaffe informed the SAC committee and attendees that the goal is to adjourn the SAC meeting by 3:30 p.m. so interested participants can relocate to the New Cuyama High School Cafeteria at 4500 CA-166, New Cuyama, CA 93254 for the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Joint Board of Directors (Board) and SAC meeting and the public hearings.

2. Roll Call

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

Mr. Blakslee announced that California Department of Water Resources regional representative Anita Regmi was in attendance for the meetings today and Chair Jaffe thanked her for her attendance and engagement.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Jaffe.

4. Approval of Minutes

CBGSA Executive Director Jim Beck presented the June 27, 2019 SAC minutes.

MOTION

Committee Member Louise Draucker made a motion to adopt the June 27, 2019 CBGSA SAC meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Committee Member Brenton Kelly. Chair Jaffe requested one change: on page 2, eighth paragraph, Sunridge Farms should be corrected to Kern Ridge Farms. Incorporating this edit, the motion passed unanimously.

- AYES: Committee Members DeBranch, Draucker, Jaffe, Kelly, Valenzuela, and Valenzuela
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: Committee Members Furstenfeld, Haslett, and Post

5. Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Woodard & Curran’s (W&C) Senior Water Resource Engineer Brian Van Lienden provided an update on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) activities including the schedule and August through October 2019 accomplishments, which is included in the SAC packet.

a. Review of Field Work Locations

Mr. Van Lienden provided an overview of the field work and recommended locations for the installation of stream gages for the surface monitoring network, which is included in the SAC packet.

Vice Chair Kelly asked if piezometers for Groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) could be funded from the current grant funding. Mr. Van Lienden replied that they are not part of the current agreement with DWR, but they could potentially be pursued in upcoming grant rounds. Mr. Beck informed the group that piezometers are good for shallow monitoring, and said this is something that could be explored during the implementation phase.

Chair Jaffe asked what a transducer is. Mr. Beck said the most basic water measurement device is a plopper, which is a weight on a string that is put down a well, but this method is more labor-intensive. He said newer technology includes acoustic sounders however those have a larger standard deviation than transducers. He said transducers measure the water pressure in a well and allow continuous monitoring that is captured via an e-logger that can store thousands of measurements before needing to be downloaded in the field.

Mr. Van Lienden informed the group that Mr. Blakslee emailed stakeholders requesting volunteers to install transducers in their wells and has received four responses to-date.

Cuyama Valley Family Resources Center’s Executive Director Lynn Carlisle asked what the benefit is of installing three transducers in the same locations and Mr. Van Lienden replied that because the basin aquifer is fragmented, this will give you information for multiple aquifers.

Committee Member Haslett arrived at 2:19 p.m.

Ms. Carlisle asked if the monitoring will be different from self-reporting, and Mr. Van Lienden confirmed this.

Vice Chair Brenton commented that if we install transducers in the Santa Barbara fault area it could

be helpful to use the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Technical Support Services (TSS) for down borehole testing to ensure the wells are sufficient for monitoring.

Ms. Carlisle asked if representative wells will be monitored and Mr. Van Lienden confirmed this.

Committee Member Joe Haslett said the ongoing monitoring of the transducers is roughly \$15 per month and that data goes to a central database. Ms. Carlisle asked how much transducers cost. Committee Member Haslett and Grapevine Capital's Ray Shady replied between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Mr. Van Lienden said we have budgeted for two stream gages, and operations and maintenance (O&M) for one year.

Chair Jaffe asked what the purpose is of the gages. Mr. Van Lienden said currently, there are only two stream gages, one up Santa Barbara Canyon and one just above Twitchell Reservoir. He said they are looking for flow information in the Valley to have better estimates on water contributions from different watersheds.

Mr. Van Lienden presented his recommendation as locations one and three. Additionally, he noted that there will be an ongoing O&M cost associated with these gages.

Vice Chair Kelly commented that the proposed location in the central portion of the Basin is very dry and we can potentially fund a gage in this location in the future.

Landowner Steve Gliessman said you may have a hard time differentiating from Cottonwood Creek flows. Committee Member Haslett said site four is more valuable to him since you have a better idea of the total water that leaves the Basin. Committee Member Haslett suggested looking into the private bridge crossing at Spanish Ranch and the SAC agreed with this suggestion.

The SAC provided direction to pursue locations one and three, but investigate Spanish Ranch as an alternative to location three.

b. Update on DWR Technical Support Services

Mr. Van Lienden provided an update on the DWR TSS application effort, which is provided in the SAC packet.

Mr. Van Lienden said there was ad hoc consensus for the Russell fault and new Cuyama site, but there are still discussions regarding the well near Santa Barbara Canyon fault.

Vice Chair Kelly recommended moving the well into the data gap circle nearer the cone of depression in the Central Basin.

Mr. Shady commented that you should verify that the sediments are appropriate in the proposed site for the third well. Committee Member Haslett said the well depth should be comparable to adjacent wells.

c. Update on Prop 68 Application

Mr. Van Lienden provided an update on the Prop 68 application, which is provided in the SAC packet.

MOTION

Committee Member Kelly made a motion to recommend approving the adopting of a resolution authorizing the CBGSA Board chairperson as the authorized representative for the Prop 68 grant program application and the motion was seconded by Committee Member Draucker. The motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Committee Members DeBranch, Draucker, Haslett, Jaffe, Kelly, Valenzuela, and Valenzuela
 NOES: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 ABSENT: Committee Members Furstenfeld and Post

d. SAC Role and Responsibilities During the Implementation Phase

Chair Jaffe commented that the role of the SAC was discussed at the July and August 2019 CBGSA Board meetings. She said she believes the SAC should discuss their role in the upcoming implementation phase.

Chair Jaffe asked what the current budgeted meeting schedule is. Mr. Beck and Mr. Blakslee reported that the CBGSA Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget assumed a schedule of six-meeting Board and SAC meeting per year. Mr. Beck and Mr. Blakslee said we will discuss the meeting cadence for 2020 at the December 4, 2019 CBGSA Joint Board and SAC meeting.

Chair Jaffe asked if the Board was looking to reduce the SAC's role. Mr. Beck said the Board is not looking to reduce the SAC's role, but there will be less reports and data to review.

Ms. Gliessman agreed with Chair Jaffe on the value of the SAC staying engaged on reviewing data and providing critical feedback.

Chair Jaffe asked Committee Members to provide comments on their role in the SAC:

Committee Member Haslett agreed that they should maintain the structure of the SAC so when the time comes to work, they are prepared to do that. He said if there is nothing to review, there is no need to meet. Committee Member Haslett said he does not foresee the SAC going away.

Committee Member Brad DeBranch agreed with Committee Member Haslett. He said the SAC plays an important role in the CBGSA and believes the SAC will not dissipate as long as it is needed, and the Board is looking for SAC input on important issues.

Committee Member Draucker commented that the SAC is the direct connection to the community and cannot expect the Board to have the same perspective as the SAC.

Vice Chair Kelly said he has witnessed great contributions from the SAC and believes the SAC is more than just important to remain functional.

Committee Member Letty Valenzuela said it is very important to have this Committee, and believes it is important to receive public comments which allows the Committee to have a better perspective.

Committee Member Jose Valenzuela said even though he is newer to the SAC, he believes that if the

Board is meeting over a critical or important item, then the SAC should meet as well.

Chair Jaffe said it has been a lot of work and an honor to serve on the SAC. She said the diverse voices of the SAC Members are the strength of the Committee. Chair Jaffe said she would like to recommend to the Board that there be a SAC meeting held when there is a Board meeting.

CBGSA Board Director Jane Wooster commented that having a discussion presented a week before the Board meeting to the SAC, and then having the same information presented at the Board is costly. She recommended possibly making the future meetings Joint Board and SAC meetings.

Mr. Beck said the Board will be calendaring 2020 meetings at the December 4, 2019 CBGSA Joint Board and SAC meeting and these meetings will correlate with W&C and HG task orders. Chair Jaffe said we will reconvene this item at the December 4, 2019 joint Board and SAC meeting.

e. County Permitting Integration with the CBGSA GSP

Chair Jaffe proposed that the SAC recommend the four counties require the CBGSA be notified as new wells are being applied for and the requester is notified of the CBGSA.

Committee Member Haslett said it is a good idea and makes sense.

6. Groundwater Sustainability Agency

a. Report of the Executive Director

Mr. Beck provided an overview of draft agenda items for the upcoming December 4, 2019 CBGSA Board meeting, which is provided in the SAC packet.

b. Board of Directors Agenda Review

Mr. Beck provided an overview of the November 6, 2019 CBGSA Special Joint Board of Directors and SAC meeting agenda.

c. Report of the General Counsel

Nothing to report.

7. Items for Upcoming Sessions

Nothing to report.

8. Committee Forum

Nothing to report.

9. Public comment for items not on the Agenda

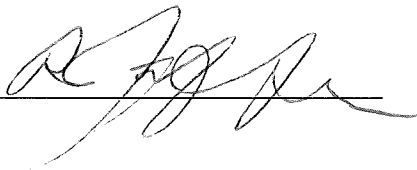
10. Correspondence

11. Adjourn

Chair Jaffe adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Standing Advisory Committee of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency the 4th day of December 2019.

STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE
CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Chair: _____ 

ATTEST:

Vice Chair: _____ 