

**SOQUEL/APTOS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
BASIN IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (BIG)
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
February 10, 2014**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Bruce Jaffe, Soquel Creek Water District called the special meeting of the Basin Implementation Group to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Committee Members Present:

Bruce Jaffe, Soquel Creek Water District Board Member
Don Hoernschemeyer, Soquel Creek Water District Board Member
Carol Monkerud, Central Water District Board Member
Bill Wigginton, Seascope Greens Homeowners Association
Bob Postle, Central Water District Board Member

Others Present:

Kim Adamson, General Manager, Soquel Creek Water District
Ralph Bracamonte, General Manager, Central Water District
John Ricker, Santa Cruz County Water Resources Division Director
Martin Mills, PureSource Water (Private Well Representative)
Melanie Schumacher, Special Projects Engineer, Soquel Creek Water District
Karen Reese, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk, Soquel Creek Water District

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - None

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** - None

5. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

5.1 Review and approve the Mid-County Groundwater Advisory Committee draft framework and budget

Kim Adamson proposed funding activities for the private well stakeholder group through the Basin Implementation Group (BIG). The intention of a private well stakeholder group is to facilitate an understanding of the shared problems with the basin. The implementation of activities similar to a replenishment district is one possible outcome. The BIG would legally be able to undertake those activities under the powers granted by AB3030. SqCWD customers have indicated that, if the BIG does not take this action, they would go through the petition process to form an independent Replenishment District. Due to the high voter population inside SqCWD compared to the rest of the basin, the likelihood of success is high. Ms. Adamson noted that statute identifies only those within the proposed boundaries could participate in a petition, not the entire county.

Discussion was held and included the size of a replenishment district and where the boundaries would be. This would be determined by data obtained from a water model indicating in which areas pumping influences seawater intrusion. Melanie Schumacher indicated that District staff would coordinate the formation of a stakeholders group, Ms. Adamson and Mr. Bracamonte would manage the group and John Ricker would be the facilitator. The plan is to inform the public of the formation of this group through outreach. Key users have been identified and will be invited. Having Santa Cruz County involved provides regional support. Once direction is given, the goal is to have notification out by March with a first meeting in April.

MOTION: Don Hoernschemeyer; Second; Bill Wigginton: To approve the framework for the Mid-County Groundwater Stakeholder Advisory Committee and budget. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

5.2 Direction to Staff Regarding the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA) Between Central Water District (CWD) and Soquel Creek Water District (SqCWD) Regarding the Addition of Santa Cruz County

Ms. Adamson outlined a possible amendment to the JPA between CWD and SqCWD to bring in the county as a partner of the JPA with the goal of enlarging the boundaries of the service area if groundwater replenishment powers are enacted. She asked for direction to staff whether a Third Amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement should be prepared for consideration at the regular May meeting of the Basin Implementation Group providing for membership of Santa Cruz County as a member, with or without a cost share provision. If there is no cost sharing, the County would not have voting rights on financial matters.

Discussion was held about adding the City of Santa Cruz as well as the County.

Direction was given to staff to invite Santa Cruz County and the City of Santa Cruz to represent those portions of the basin within their jurisdiction and become additional parties within the JPA and to prepare a Third Amendment to the JPA to bring back to a subsequent BIG meeting.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

Ms. Adamson announced that at the March 4, 2014 Board meeting at the Capitola City Council Chambers there will be discussion on California water law as it pertains to the ability to restore the basin. There will also be discussion on enacting replenishment powers or creating a replenishment district.

Mr. Wigginton asked what authority there is at the county or city level for condemnation to obtain land for reservoirs.

Ms. Adamson addressed the reservoir question by stating that there is a large natural reservoir underground. Land would only be needed for injection wells in order to use it.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kim Adamson, General Manager
Soquel Creek Water District