

**SOQUEL/APTOS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE BASIN IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (BIG))  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 20, 2015**

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Bruce Jaffe called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Voting Committee Members Present:**

Bruce Jaffe, Soquel Creek Water District  
Tom LaHue, Soquel Creek Water District  
John Benich, Central Water District  
Bob Postle, Central Water District  
Bill Wigginton, Seascope Greens Homeowners Association (outgoing member)  
Curt Abramson, Private Well Owner Representative (incoming member)  
Jim Kerr, Private Well Owner Representative (incoming member)  
Jon Kennedy, Private Well Owner Representative (incoming member)  
Cynthia Mathews, City of Santa Cruz  
Micah Posner, City of Santa Cruz

**Committee Members Absent:**

John Leopold, County of Santa Cruz  
Zach Friend, County of Santa Cruz

**Others Present:**

Ralph Bracamonte, Manager, Central Water District  
Rosemary Menard, City of Santa Cruz Water Manager  
Ron Duncan, Interim General Manager, Soquel Creek Water District  
John Ricker, Santa Cruz County Water Resources Division Director  
Melanie Schumacher, Soquel Creek Water District  
Brian Lockwood, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency  
Martin Mills, PureSource Water  
Robert Shultz, Trout Gulch Mutual  
Brett Walton, Circle of Blue Water News  
Cameron Tana, HydroMetrics WRI  
Marc DuPraw, Center for Collaborative Policy  
Karen Reese, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk, Soquel Creek Water District

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of May 21, 2015

MOTION Bill Wigginton; Second; Bob Postle: To approve the minutes of May 21, 2015 as submitted. Motion passed with Tom LaHue abstaining.
--

**4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (*items not on the Agenda*)**

Brian Lockwood, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency reported that their Board approved staff moving forward with submitting an application to DWR to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).

5. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

5.1 Review and Approve Revised Third Amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA)

The agreement has been signed by the County of Santa Cruz, approved by Central Water District at their Board meeting. SqCWD's Board also approved the agreement. The City of Santa Cruz's counsel asked that there be a line added for the City Attorney's signature.

Director Jaffe expressed concerns of the SqCWD:

- The third amendment states cost sharing be set by measured use of the Partner Agencies but not everyone measures their water use. The understanding is that the County is estimating private well pumping at this time.
- How to deal with issues if one Partner Agency doesn't want to take part in a project. Within this third amendment there is no plan to address this. SqCWD wants it understood that it is a concern and will need to be addressed in the GSA moving forward. Mr. Posner felt that Item 13, Non-Restrictive of Independent Activities, addressed this issue.
- Cost-sharing ratios that were set for FY 2015 contributions were set pragmatically and should be revisited but this would not preclude SqCWD from signing the agreement.
- This agreement should not be considered precedent setting for the GSA formation.

MOTION: Tom LaHue; Second; Bob Postle: To approve the revised attached Third Amendment of the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and let it take precedent over the previously approved version. Approved unanimously.

The Third Amendment to the JPA was signed by those present. Dr. LaHue commented on the spirit of cooperation that led to the momentous occasion of signing this agreement. Ms. Menard will take the agreement back to the City for the final signatures.

The Basin Implementation Group shall now be formally referred to as the Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Management Committee (SAGMC).

5.2 Selection of Private Well Committee Representatives

The selection subcommittee was comprised of Micah Posner, John Ricker, John Benich and Bruce Jaffe. 25 applicants were reviewed and interviews were held with the short listed candidates. It was noted that many very well qualified

individuals applied making selection a difficult decision. Of those who applied, many indicated they would like to be involved in some way with the process moving forward even if they were not selected to sit on the committee.

Mr. Wigginton asked a procedural question. By passing this motion is he no longer on the SAGMC and would he still be eligible to serve on the GSA formation subcommittee? Mr. Jaffe indicated that is correct. Mr. Wigginton expressed his desire to still participate in the subcommittee. He was thanked for his years of service on the committee.

Discussion was held regarding alternates for the City, the County and the private well representatives. SqCWD and CWD have alternates identified.

MOTION Bruce Jaffe; Second; Tom LaHue: To agendaize discussion of the process and selection of alternates to the SAGMC. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION Bob Postle; Second; Tom LaHue: To approve the subcommittee's recommendations for private well representatives. Motion passed with Mr. Wigginton abstaining.

Incoming private well representatives Curt Abramson, Jim Kerr, and Jon Kennedy were introduced and invited to sit at the table to participate in the remainder of the meeting as committee members.

5.3 Approve Revised Soquel-Aptos Area Groundwater Management Annual Budget FY 2015/16

Ms. Schumacher and Mr. Tana answered questions about items on the proposed budget. Lack of staffing resources for the SAGMC was discussed. Also discussed was the budget for boundary changes.

MOTION: Cynthia Mathews; Second; Tom LaHue: To approve the revised Soquel-Aptos Area Groundwater Management Annual Budget FY 2015/16. Motion passed unanimously.

5.4 Quarterly Monitoring Report

Mr. Tana answered questions about the report included in the packet.

MOTION Tom LaHue; Second; Cynthia Mathews: To accept the Quarterly Report. Motion passed unanimously.

5.5 Update from Subcommittee on Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Formation

Ms. Schumacher and Mr. Kennedy reviewed the progress of the subcommittee. They are aiming for a January 2016 date to file the papers to become a GSA with the agency made up primarily of the current members of the SAGMC. Moving forward with the formation of the agency is the first step, then formulating the GSP, with the understanding that the GSA can be fluid as the plan is formulated.

Lengthy discussion was held with some members of the SAGMC expressing concern that January is too ambitious of a deadline.

MOTION: Tom LaHue; Second; Cynthia Mathews: To direct the subcommittee to bring back the prioritized components of getting us toward establishing a GSA at the September SAGMC meeting and aim for a more complete version at the SAGMC November meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

5.6 Update on Soquel-Aptos Area Community Engagement Pertaining to GSA Formation

Marci DuPraw gave an update.

MOTION: Bruce Jaffe; Second; Cynthia Mathews: To accept the update and direct staff to come up with options of how best options to use the \$15,000 in kind services. Motion passed unanimously.

5.7 Intent of Department of Water Resources (DWR) to Designate the Groundwater Basin as Being in Critical Overdraft

Mr. Duncan noted that SqCWD already sent a letter to DWR in support of the redesignation of the Soquel Valley basin as being in critical overdraft.

Mr. Posner suggested a press release indicating the basin is in critical overdraft and why a GSA is being formed for public outreach.

Mr. Abramson asked if there was a disadvantage to being designated as critically overdrawn.

Mr. Ricker replied there is a state proposal that might limit new well construction in some areas of critical overdraft.

MOTION: Tom LaHue; Second; Cynthia Mathews: To direct staff to send a letter of support to DWR regarding their intent to recommend the basin as being in critical overdraft **and** to direct staff to perform public outreach/education on the issue. Motion passed unanimously.

5.8 Approve Proposed Scope for Evaluating Shallow Groundwater Conditions in Aromas and Purisima Areas

Discussion was held on the need for this study. Mr. Tana answered questions.

MOTION: Cynthia Mathews; Second; Bob Postal: To approve the attached proposed scope work for a total not-to-exceed \$19,905. Motion passed unanimously.

5.9 Approve Proposed Scope for Preparation of Basin Boundary Revisions  
Mr. Tana gave a short presentation and outlined the schedule for submitting the proposal to the State. Discussion of sub-basins with PVWMA was held.

MOTION: Tom LaHue; Second; Cynthia Mathews: To approve the proposal from HydroMetrics WRI for assistance in preparing request to revise the state's definitions of groundwater basin boundaries in the Soquel-Aptos area. Motion passed unanimously.

5.10 Consider Proposal for Retention from Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck for Assistance in Forming a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and Developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

Ms. Schumacher reviewed the memo and outlined Mr. McGlothlin's expertise in the area of GSA formation.

MOTION: Bruce Jaffe; Second; Micah Posner: To approve the proposal from Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck for assistance in forming a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Motion passed unanimously.

5.11 Consider Comments on Draft Basin Boundary Emergency Regulations

Ms. Schumacher noted the emergency draft regulations were included in the packet as well as the proposed comments prepared by HydroMetrics on behalf of the SAGMC.

MOTION: Tom LaHue; Second; Micah Posner: To approve the comments by HydroMetrics, WRI (dated 8/13/2015) on the Draft Basin Boundary Emergency Regulations and direct staff to submit to DWR. Motion passed unanimously.

5.12 Approve Reimbursement to Central Water District (CWD) for their Groundwater Model Based on JPA Cost Split

Ms. Schumacher noted that having a running credit with CWD is not working from an accounting standpoint and staff is recommending reimbursement by the Partner Agencies based on the third amendment cost split of:

	<u>% split</u>	<u>Cost Share Amount</u>
Central Water District	10%	\$10,670
Soquel Creek Water District	70%	\$74,690
City of Santa Cruz	10%	\$10,670
<u>County of Santa Cruz</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>\$10,670</u>
Total	100%	\$106,700

MOTION: Micah Posner; Second; Bruce Jaffe: To approve reimbursement of Central Water District's groundwater modeling efforts at the percentages noted above. Motion was passed unanimously.

Central Water District will invoice each Partner Agency individually.

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

**7. MANAGER'S REPORTS**

7.1 Central Water District

Mr. Bracamonte reported that conservation has reduced use by 50% from 2013. He would like to see the logos of all member agencies of the SAGMC at the top of the meeting agendas, and he would like agenda item #7 to be re-titled from "Manager's Reports" to "SAGMC Member Updates/Oral Reports" to be more reflective of the entire membership.

7.2 City of Santa Cruz

Ms. Menard reported that the City and SqCWD are working to sign a short term agreement for the City to sell excess Pre-2014 water rights water and are hoping to have this in place this winter. Monitoring, data collection and testing of the infrastructure will take place.

7.3 County of Santa Cruz

Mr. Ricker reported that the Board of Supervisors finalized adoption of metering requirements. Small water systems with 5-199 connections are now required to install source meters by October and will have two years to install individual meters. Individual domestic wells are not required to be individually metered.

The groundwater recharge project is underway at Brommer Street Park.

7.4 Soquel Creek Water District

Mr. Duncan reported on the agreement between SqCWD and the City for water transfers of winter storm water.

Ms. Schumacher will be attending the ACWA conference on Sustainable Groundwater Management tomorrow in Sacramento.

Brett Walton was introduced. He is a reporter for Circle of Blue <http://www.circleofblue.org/waternews/> and has been meeting with agencies in California discussing the drought.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. The next meeting of the SAGMC will be September 17, 2015.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

---

Karen Reese, Board Clerk

---

Ron Duncan, Interim General Manager  
Soquel Creek Water District