

# **State of California, County of Siskiyou**

## **Flood Control and Water Conservation District Minutes**

### **June 1, 2021**

The Honorable Directors of the Flood Control and Water Conservation District of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June 2021; there being present Directors Ray A. Haupt, Brandon Criss, Michael N. Kobseff, Nancy Ogren and Ed Valenzuela, County Administrator Angela Davis, County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan, and County Clerk and ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Directors Laura Bynum by Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Haupt.

#### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments received.

**Flood Control District / Natural Resources** - Presentation of an update re the progress of development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the Butte, Scott and Shasta Valley basins and a summary of fee study work regarding various methods to collect fees for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation in the future. Presentation and discussion only.

Natural Resource Policy Specialist Matt Parker provided a brief update regarding efforts related to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the Butte, Scott and Shasta Valley basins. Mr. Parker distributed a 17-page powerpoint presentation regarding potential costs associated with implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and introduced SCI Consulting Group representatives John Bliss and Ryan Aston and Larry Walker Associates' representative Dr. Laura Foglia (who participated via ZOOM/teleconference).

Pursuant to California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, March 17, 2020, participation in this item by various County staff and members of the public was provided via teleconference phone.

Mr. Bliss presented the powerpoint presentation, including an overview of the process utilized to evaluate possible costs associated with GSP implementation for each of the County's three groundwater basins and the possible funding mechanisms that could be considered (i.e. property related/flat rate fees, property related/usage rate fees, special tax models). Mr. Bliss summarized the processes used to evaluate costs and the various types of funding mechanisms.

Director Kobseff suggested a possible county-wide special tax versus only affected groundwater basin property owners being charged a special tax to implement GSPs.

Discussion followed between members of the District Board, Mr. Bliss, Mr. Parker and Community Development Director Rick Dean regarding the need for research regarding special tax models, the Flood Control District's jurisdiction/authority with regard to special taxes, the efforts being made to develop budgets prior to GSP approval, certain groundwater wells being measured, the different estimated costs for each groundwater basin and the potential for increased costs if the State were to be the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the local groundwater basins.

Director Haupt shared concerns regarding the proposed processes to develop fees for each groundwater basin and the possibility for metering of groundwater wells.

In response, Mr. Parker advised that groundwater well metering was not anticipated or planned.

Continued...

## **Flood Control District / Natural Resources – (continued)**

Further discussion followed, including Dr. Foglia, District Counsel Edward J. Kiernan and Assistant District Counsel Natalie Reed regarding the potential for a reduction in implementation costs over time, the need to keep fees as low as possible to benefit those who would be paying to implement SGMA, the benefits associated with local control over administration/fees, the need to research and compare the different fees if the State were the GSA rather than the Flood Control District and the potential limitations related to applying special tax rates within the Flood Control District boundaries.

Chair Haupt opened the item to public comments.

Local resident Jennifer Dickinson shared concerns regarding possible metering of groundwater wells.

Local resident Nick Joslin spoke in support of groundwater users bearing the costs associated with implementing SGMA.

Chair Haupt reiterated that the purpose of SGMA was to protect groundwater aquifers versus the imposition of fees.

**Closed Session** - Flood Control District - Conference with legal counsel, anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(2), one case, commenced at 12:34p.m., concluded at 12:40p.m., and commenced at 1:50p.m., concluded at 2:00p.m., with no action taken.

### **Report On Closed Session**

District Counsel Edward J. Kiernan announced that closed session concluded at 2:00p.m., with no reportable action taken.

**Adjournment** - There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:  
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

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Ray A. Haupt, Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy