

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Flood Control and Water Conservation District Minutes

June 6, 2023

The Honorable Directors of the Flood Control and Water Conservation District of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 6th day of June 2023; there being present Directors Nancy Ogren, Brandon Criss, Ray A. Haupt, Ed Valenzuela and Michael N. Kobseff, County Administrator Angela Davis, District Counsel Natalie E. Reed, 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 Valenzuela.

Public Comment

There were no public comments received.

Flood Control and Water Conservation District - Presentation of an update on the development of the Strategy Document from Stantec Consulting.

Natural Resource Policy Specialist Matt Parker appeared before the District Board, provided a brief overview of the request and introduced Stantec Consulting representative Emily Finnegan to present additional information.

Ms. Finnegan appeared before the District Board and presented a powerpoint presentation regarding strategic planning for managing groundwater. Ms. Finnegan recapped the District Board's previous February 7th discussion regarding groundwater management strategic document development, including the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis, a refined Vision Statement and refined goals and strategies that were shared with the Groundwater Basin Advisory Committees for the Butte, Scott and Shasta Valleys. Ms. Finnegan advised that various tactics were then drafted following input from the three groundwater basin advisory committees.

Continuing the powerpoint, Ms. Finnegan provided an overview of the Strategy Document's elements, including a Vision Statement, Goals, Strategies and Tactics. Ms. Finnegan summarized one goal and two strategies, each, created for the Decision-Making; Funds and Resources; and Communications and Engagements sections of the Strategy Document. Additionally, Ms. Finnegan summarized both near-term and long-term tactics related to each section and requested District Board input regarding each.

Discussion followed between members of the District Board, Ms. Finnegan, Mr. Parker and District Counsel Natalie E. Reed regarding the need to clarify Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Board members within the language in each identified tactic, add other entities to possible members of coordination agreements/Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), add collaboration with other agencies/entities regarding identifying data gaps, possible methods for tracking/sharing groundwater activities, projects and/or funding opportunities (i.e. website information availability), the future evaluation/consideration for development of a rate and fee schedule to implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and possible liability issues related to public access to groundwater monitoring data.

Ms. Finnegan concluded the powerpoint with a summary of near-term tactics for the upcoming year as well as long-term tactics for the next five years, related to various Strategy Document topics (i.e. staff, GSA Board and Advisory Committee roles/responsibilities, implementation fee/rate options, identify data and staff gaps, etc.).

Further discussion followed regarding possible methods to protect the District Board, as the administrator of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency, from potential liability and/or litigation, the need to continue to work with the Department of Water Resources to place non-private groundwater monitoring wells strategically within each basin and plans for additional presentation and consideration of the Strategy Document development.

Flood Control and Water Conservation District - Discussion, direction, and possible action re an update to Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Data Collection Landowner Approval Form. Approved.

Natural Resource Policy Specialist Matt Parker provided an overview of the request to update the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Data Collection Landowner Approval Form, including minor verbiage changes in the form/template.

Following discussion between members of the District Board and Mr. Parker regarding the anticipated use of the form by local landowners to provide certain groundwater data, it was moved by Director Kobseff, seconded by Director Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Directors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES, to approve Data Collection and Use Agreement Form.

Minute Approval – May 16, 2023. Approved.

It was moved by Director Ogren, seconded by Director Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Directors Haupt, Kobseff, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES and Director Criss ABSTAINING, to approve the May 16, 2023 minutes as presented.

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

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Ed Valenzuela, Chair

By: _____
Deputy

