

Shandon-San Juan Water District
Shandon-San Juan Groundwater Sustainability Agency
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Shandon-San Juan Board of Directors will hold a regularly scheduled Board Meeting at **9:00 A.M.** on **Tuesday, April 21, 2020** utilizing a virtual meeting format. District members and the public are encouraged to participate.

MEETING AGENDA
April 21, 2020

Join the meeting: join.me/sunviewmeeting (includes audio).

As a courtesy, please mute both phone and computer microphones during the meeting to avoid unwanted feedback noise for the other participants and unmute only when speaking.

To dial in by phone: use either of these two numbers

(213) 226-1066

(415) 594-5500

Conference ID: 628-055-929 #

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Public Comment**
- 4. Consent Agenda**
 - a. Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2019 (attached)
 - b. Secretary/Treasurer's Report (attached)
- 5. Discuss Invoicing GSA Partners for Prop 1D Grant Preparation**
 - a. Based on the MOA, the percentages are:

City Member	15%
SMCSD Member	3%
HRCSD Member	1%
SSJWD Member	20%
County Member	61%
- 6. Directors Reports**
 - a. Ag Order 4.0 ([Link to Ag Order 4.0 Documents](#))
 - b. Stream Gage and Monitoring Well Projects
 - c. Resources and Potential Projects ([Link to Project Documents](#))
 - d. Economic Impact Report
 - e. Watershed Manager Position Grant
- 7. Alan Doud – SGMA Update**
- 8. Paul Sorenson and Randy Diffenbaugh – Annual Report and Data Collection** ([Link to Annual Report](#))
- 9. Jeff Barry GSI Water Solutions – Stormwater Capture and Recharge Feasibility Study**
- 10. Mark Battany – Evapotranspiration Research Opportunities**

- 11. Consider Making Comments on the County's Water Neutral/Offset to Send to the Planning Commission and the WRAC (draft comments attached)**
- 12. Discuss and Consider Implementing Well Groundwater Extraction Metering and Groundwater Level Monitoring at the District Level.**
- 13. Consider Supporting the Joint Irrigated Growers Central Coast Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program with a Donation (attached)**
- 14. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting – May 19, 2020**
- 15. Adjourn**

NOTE: In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), if you need special assistance to access the meeting room or otherwise participate at this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact Bertoux & Co. 930 Nysted Dr. St. A Solvang, CA 93463 805-451-0841 admin@ssjwd.org. Notification of at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting will help enable reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting.

NOTE: Copies of Meeting Documents can be found on our District Webpage <https://www.ssjwd.org/> or requested by contacting Bertoux & Co. 930 Nysted Dr. St. A Solvang, CA 93463 805-451-0841 admin@ssjwd.org.

Shandon San-Juan Water District
Shandon-San Juan Groundwater Sustainability Agency
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 17, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Shandon-San Juan Water District (SSJWD) was held in on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 9:00 am at the Illy Lodge, located at 3385 Truesdale Rd., Shandon, CA 93461. A virtual conference call option was also available to the Board as well as the public.

I. Call to Order

President Cunha called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. and Secretary Stephanie Bertoux recorded the minutes.

II. Roll Call

The following directors were present, constituting a quorum for the transaction of business.

Directors Present:	Willy Cunha	Marshall Miller (teleconference)
	Kevin Peck	Steve Sinton (teleconference)
		Matt Turrentine (teleconference)

Others Present:	Randy Diffenbaugh, SSJWD Staff (teleconference)
	Paul Sorensen, GSI Water Solutions (teleconference)
	Mike Ahumada, Sunview Vineyards (teleconference)
	Jerry Reaugh, Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (teleconference)

III. Public Comment

No public comment.

IV. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included:

- A. Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2020
- B. Treasurer's Report dated March 12, 2020

MOTION – Approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

It was **MOVED** by Director Peck, seconded by Director Miller and carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

V. Directors Reports

SSJWD's Directors reported the following:

- A. WRAC - Director Sinton reported that the next WRAC meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2020. One item on the agenda is to consider providing feedback to the County Department of Planning & Building on Water Neutral New Development Phase 1.5 Proposal Ordinance Amendments. SSJWD will discuss and consider providing comments to the WRAC and the County Department of Planning & Building.

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- B. Stormwater Capture and Recharge Feasibility Study - Director Cunha reported that the Stormwater Capture and Recharge Feasibility Study is underway. A more detailed update will be provided at the Board meeting in April.

VI. Resolution 19-007: Additional Funds for Economic Impact Study

SSJWD reviewed and discussed Resolution 19-007 authorizing an additional payment of \$4,750 to complete the Economic Impact Study.

MOTION – Approve Resolution 19-007 as presented.

It was **MOVED** by Director Peck, seconded by Director Sinton and carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

VII. GSP First Annual Report

With the submittal of the adopted Paso Robles Subbasin GSP by the January 31, 2020 deadline, the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are required to submit an annual report for the preceding Water Year (October 1 through September 30) to DWR by April 1, 2020. Director Cunha and Paul Sorensen, GSI Water Solutions, reviewed the draft annual report prepared by GSI Water Solutions dated February 26, 2020.

Relative to the basin conditions at the end of the study period as reported in the GSP, this draft First Annual Report (2017–2019) indicates an improvement in groundwater conditions throughout the Subbasin and a marked increase of total groundwater in storage. It is clear that historical groundwater pumping in excess of the sustainable yield has created challenging conditions for sustainable management. However, actions are already underway to collect data, improve the monitoring and data collection networks, and coordinate with affected agencies and entities throughout the Subbasin to develop solutions that address the shared mutual interest in the Subbasin’s overall sustainability goal.

VIII. Budget

Director Cunha reviewed the draft budget for SSJWD for FY 2020/21.

MOTION – Approve the FY 2020/21 budget as presented.

It was **MOVED** by Director Turrentine, seconded by Director Sinton and carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

IX. LAFCo Agriculture Definitions, Guidelines, and Policies

LAFCo meeting scheduled for March 19, 2020 has been canceled. This item was tabled and will be placed on a future agenda.

X. Ag Order 4.0

Director Cunha reviewed the key elements of Ag Order 4.0 and the Compliance Form.

<https://www.ssjwd.org/ag-order-4-0>

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MOTION – Director Cunha to prepare a short letter summarizing SSJWD’s comments on Ag Order 4.0 to be reviewed by the Board and submitted to the Central Coast Water Board by the June 20, 2020 deadline.

It was **MOVED** by Director Sinton, seconded by Director Turrentine and carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

XI. County Agricultural Offset Ordinance

SSJWD discussed and agreed to provide feedback to the WRAC and the County Department of Planning & Building on Water Neutral New Development Phase 1.5 Proposed Ordinance Amendments regarding updates to Paso Basin and Area of Severe Decline maps, a fallowing option for the Ag Offset Program, and clarifying the phrase “de minimis” in the Ag Offset Ordinance.

Points of discussion included:

- Fallowing: No issue with voluntary fallowing. The fallowing registration process should be easy for landowners with no time limit for how long fallowing can be implemented without losing any right to the use of groundwater under the ordinance.
- Off-site Offset: Offsets should be between closely located properties and never from an area of identified severe groundwater level decline (the “red zones”) to areas outside those areas.
- Area of Severe Decline Map: The data supporting the defined red zones are based on an inadequate number of monitoring wells measured only twice a year. Any definition of areas of severe decline needs to be fully supported by adequate data. SSJWD supports identifying and adding sufficient monitoring wells to be commenced immediately.
- Paso Robles Basin Map: Should be revised to match 118 Boundary.
- De Minimis Definition: SSJWD supports limiting new use under the County Land Use Ordinance for commercial irrigation to 5 acre feet.

MOTION – Director Sinton to draft a summary of the District’s comments on the County’s Water Neutral New Development Phase 1.5 Proposed Ordinance Amendments to be reviewed by the Board and then sent to the WRAC and County Department of Building & Planning.

It was **MOVED** by Director Cunha, seconded by Director Peck, and carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

XII. Implementing the GSP

The GSP noted numerous data gaps in the current RMS network. The SSJWD GSA Board has begun the process during the implementation phase of the GSP to identify existing wells that can be added to the network, or if needed to construct new wells for the network. SSJWD is committed to assisting the County in identifying and securing access to existing wells as needed for these monitoring purposes. As a start to this effort, the following motion was made.

MOTION - Direct District Staff to work with GSI Water Solutions to create a proposal for improving data collection and increasing the number of monitoring wells to present at the next Board meeting.

It was **MOVED** by Director Sinton, seconded by Director Peck, and carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

XIII. Adjourn

Being no further business, President Cunha adjourned the meeting at 11:15am.

SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT

Accepted:

Will Cunha, President

Date

Stephanie Bertoux, Secretary

Date

Shandon-San Juan Water District

Treasurer's Report: March 13, 2020 – April 16, 2020

Date: April 16, 2020

To: Shandon-San Juan Water District Board of Directors

From: Stephanie Bertoux, District Secretary/Treasurer/Assessor

2019/20 Assessment

\$300,749.06 levied for 2019-20 Assessment on 07/25/19. Final due date for assessments was January 25, 2020. Final notices/invoices have been sent.

- \$284,017.09 collected to date for 2019/20 assessments
- \$16,731.97 in A/R for 2019/20 assessments; \$7,224.59 is from two landowners who wish to detach.

A/R from Previous Assessments

\$13,751.57 in accounts receivable from assessments for 2017/18 and 2018/19 FY.

- \$3,474.39 from 2017/18 Assessment
- \$10,277.18 from 2018/19 Assessment; \$7,224.59 is from two landowners who wish to detach.

Prop 1D Grant

On April 1, 2020, SSJWD received a check in the amount of \$199,367.07 for our portion of the Prop 1D grant reimbursement funds. This will be shown as a separate line item under income on the financial statements.

Expenses

Expenses for the period totaled \$41,407.51

Cash Position

After paying expenses, the District has a cash position of \$424,324.16

Comments on the proposed San Luis Obispo County Water Neutral Ordinance Amendments

Following:

Voluntary following is one of the best ways to reduce groundwater use at no public cost. This concept should be implemented immediately and the mechanism for the registration of following should be easy for the landowner. There should be no time limit for how long following can be implemented without losing any right to the use of groundwater under the ordinance. Landowners who plan to resume irrigation, having demonstrated their prior use during the following registration process, will need to register their planned new use and assure they are extracting groundwater within their current allocation or right.

Offsite water offsets:

Offsite water offsets can be challenging to implement and administer, but can be a powerful tool for achieving basin balance while maintaining a robust agricultural economy. We support the return of a fair, transparent system for off-site water offsets outside the red zone.~~are susceptible to abuse. We concur with the current moratorium on offsite offsets. At a minimum, offsets should be between closely located properties and never from an area of identified severe groundwater level decline (the "red zones") to areas outside those areas. Because of the very slow movement of groundwater over long distances and uneven connectivity below ground, it makes good sense to keep transfers within short distances and within areas with good hydrologic connectivity. Given the complicated nature of family farm ownership, any prohibition against offsite offsets must be drafted to allow offsets within a unified operation notwithstanding the exact ownership of integrated family parcel ownership.~~

Area of severe decline map:

The County should not be unilaterally determining the location and extent of the "red zone" and picking winners and losers. The PBCC should determine which data should be used to determine the Area of Severe Decline and the data sources should be public and transparent and consistent. The map should not be revised arbitrarily at this time. We need immediate and significant expansion of the monitoring network because~~The "red-zone" map keeps moving, making operational and remedial plans more difficult.~~The data supporting the defined red zones are opaque and based on an admittedly inadequate number of monitoring wells measured only twice a year (causing extrapolation that may or may not be correct). Any definition of areas of severe decline needs to be fully supported by adequate data. We support the extensive addition of County monitoring wells to be commenced immediately, with the conversion of twice annual monitoring to continuous recording devices. Shandon-San Juan Water District is committed to assisting the County in identifying and securing access to existing wells as needed for these monitoring purposes.

Exemptions for one-time new irrigation development (Phase 2):

The idea of allowing the expansion of irrigation from 5 AFY to 25 AFY is irresponsible. The Paso Robles Groundwater Sustainability Plan already proposes that irrigated agriculture curtail water use by a substantial amount which will cause significant economic impact throughout the region. Any County proposal to encourage the expansion of irrigation (or any other new water use of the basin) is appalling. The amount of additional demand created by any County sanctioned expansion of pumping will have an

immediate adverse impact on existing farmer and rancher operations and magnify the adverse impact on the economy. The extent of the damage caused by this proposal would depend on the final definition of the area to which it is applied. If the expansions of allowed pumping were applied on a per parcel basis, the impact on existing operations could be disastrous.

Central Coast Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program – RESPONSE PROCESS

Agricultural organization partners Grower Shipper Association of Central California (GSA-CC), Monterey County Farm Bureau (MCFB), Western Growers Association (WGS), and the Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties (GSA-CC-SB&SLO) are currently engaged in the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Coast Water Board) process for the adoption a new Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP or Ag Order 4.0) pursuant to the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act that will dictate and regulate discharges to groundwater and surface water from irrigated agricultural activities throughout the Central Coast jurisdictional area. It is expected that the Ag Order 4.0 adopted will be a 'waste discharge requirements' document and not a 'waiver' document as the prior three iterations of the ILRP have been in the Central Coast region.

Also participating in this effort, in-kind or materially, are California Farm Bureau Federation, California Strawberry Commission, Western Plant Health Association, and the County Farm Bureaus of San Benito County, San Luis Obispo County, San Mateo County, Santa Barbara County, and Santa Clara County.

Based on a draft of the Ag Order 4.0 released by Central Coast Water Board staff (February 21, 2020) detailing recommended requirements, the Agricultural organizations in the Central Coast region anticipate that the Central Coast Water Board may adopt an extremely draconian order that will have far reaching impacts on the viability and economic sustainability of Central Coast agricultural and agriculture's ability to comply with proposed requirements.

The Central Coast Water Board's public process includes several significant steps for the Agricultural organizations to participate prior to adoption in January 2021, which are as follows:

- (1) Review and comment on Central Coast Water Board staff's draft Ag Order 4.0 by June 20, 2020, and put forward alternative options for Central Coast Water Board consideration;
- (2) review environmental documents prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by June 20, 2020;
- (3) prepare for and participate in any critical workshops and hearings where Agricultural organization members will provide Central Coast Water Board direction on Ag Order 4.0 provisions and requirements;
- (4) review and respond to Central Coast Water Board's second and/or final order, estimated as early as September 2020; and,
- (5) prepare for and participate in Central Coast Water Board workshops and public hearings on CEQA documents and the final order, estimated late 2020 through January 2021.

Each of the Agricultural organizations partners has one designated representative to participate in regular meetings formulating responses, policies and legal arguments with engaged experts in the area of agronomy, agricultural research, economic impacts, hydrology, conservation, nutritional science, surface water monitoring, and water regulation legal expertise with CEQA conformity.

Experts engaged to date:

- Agronomist Expert: Ken Cassman
- Economist Expert: ERA Economics
- Nutrition Expert: Exponent
- Conservation coalition of agencies: NRCS, RCD, MLML, Conservation Collaborative
- Water Law Legal: Kahn, Soares and Conway LLP and CA Farm Bureau Federation
- CEQA Law Legal: CA Farm Bureau Federation
- TNA Data Analysis: Western Growers Assoc.