

Shandon San-Juan Water District
Shandon-San Juan Groundwater Sustainability Agency
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 21, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Shandon-San Juan Water District (SSJWD) was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 9:00 am utilizing a virtual meeting format. The agenda and all supporting documents were posted at <https://www.ssjwd.org/agendas-minutes>. Both telephone and electronic screen share options were made available to the public.

I. Call to Order

President Cunha called the meeting to order at 9:04 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.

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| Directors Present: | Willy Cunha | Steve Sinton |
| | Kevin Peck | Matt Turrentine |
| | Marshall Miller | |

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| Others Present: | Randy Diffenbaugh, SSJWD Staff |
| | Paul Sorensen, GSI Water Solutions |
| | Jeff Barry, GSI Water Solutions |
| | Nate Page, GSI Water Solutions |
| | Ailco Wolf, GSI Water Solutions |
| | Alan Doud, Young Wooldridge |
| | Mark Battany |
| | Ray Shady, Grapevine Capital Partners |
| | Jerry Reaugh, Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District |
| | Laurie Gage, Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District |

III. Public Comment

Jerry Reaugh asked for an update on the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee. SSJWD Staff Randy Diffenbaugh reported that, due to COVID 19, the PBCC did not meet in March or April 2020. Future meeting dates have not yet been determined.

IV. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included:

- A. Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2020
- B. Treasurer's Report dated April 16, 2020

MOTION – Approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

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V. Prop 1D Grant Update

The Paso Robles Groundwater Basin having been designated a Critically Overdrafted Basin was eligible for up to \$1.5 million in funding from DWR under Proposition 1. SSJWD acted as the contracting agency for the preparation of the grant application. SSJWD paid Hydrometrics \$33,430.63 to prepare the grant application on behalf of the District and our GSA partners. The grant application was approved in 2019. In early April 2020, each GSA partner received their proportional amount of the grant. SSJWD will prepare invoices for our GSA partners based on the percentages outlined in the MOA.

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|---------------------|-------------|
| City Member (15%) | \$5,014.59 |
| SMCSD Member (3%) | \$1,002.92 |
| HRCSD Member (1%) | \$334.31 |
| SSJWD Member (20%) | \$6,686.13 |
| County Member (61%) | \$20,392.68 |

VI. Directors Reports

SSJWD's Directors reported the following:

- A. Ag Order 4.0 – Director Cunha reported that the deadline for comments on Ag Order 4.0 has been extended until June 15, 2020. Electronic copies of the Draft EIR, Draft Agricultural Order 4.0, and supporting documents can be found on the District's website at <https://www.ssjwd.org/ag-order-4-0>. SSJWD will continue to encourage landowners to submit comments.
- B. Stream Gages, Monitoring Wells and Potential Future Projects – The Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Periodic Groundwater Levels dataset contains seasonal and long-term surface and groundwater level measurements collected by the Department of Water Resources and cooperating agencies in groundwater basins statewide. Director Cunha reported that two local landowners within the District agreed to participate and allow DWR to place streamgages on their property. DWR will install and calibrate these streamgages and make the continuing data stream available. This dataset is maintained in the DWR Enterprise Water Management database. This is an important step increasing data collection and implementing the GSP. The District will continue to identify and pursue other sites for streamgages and monitoring wells to be included in the monitoring network. Ideas for initial locations can be found at <https://www.ssjwd.org/gsp-implementation>.
- C. Economic Impact Report – SSJWD, EPCWD and several other partners funded an Economic Impact Study that analyzed scenarios in which 10%, 17% and 23% of current water use is reduced. A summary of the results of the study can be found on the District's website at https://58c76411-b510-46ed-b41f-dc678de4652e.filesusr.com/ugd/c94e07_c274f45ff90a46d69f9b91f49ba80007.pdf
- D. Watershed Manager Position Grant – Director Cunha reported that a watershed coordinator is a position that the State funds for a local government or non-profit to work with local stakeholders and downstream beneficiaries. The purpose is to develop plans and projects to improve watershed health, and to achieve state and local natural resources goals. The maximum limit on the amount of each grant proposal is \$200,000. This will be further discussed at a future meeting.

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VII. SGMA Update

SSJWD's legal counsel Alan Doud reported that the DWR has extended the public comment period until May 15, 2020. A copy of the GSP and instruction for public comment can be found on the home page of District's website at <https://www.ssjwd.org/>

VIII. 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) were required to submit an annual report for the preceding Water Year (October 1 through September 30) to DWR by April 1, 2020. Paul Sorensen, GSI Water Solutions, reported that the annual report was prepared and submitted. Prior to submission, the draft was posted to the District's website and the public was invited to submit comments on the report. Due to COVID 19, the PBCC did not meet in March or April and did not formally receive and file the report. The final report can be viewed on the home page of the District's website at <https://www.ssjwd.org/>

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.

IX. Stormwater Capture and Recharge Feasibility Study

Jeff Barry, GSI Water Solutions, presented an update on the progress of the feasibility study. The main objectives of the study are to identify optimum stormwater recharge areas and quantify stormwater potentially available. The presentation is posted on the District's website at https://58c76411-b510-46ed-b41f-dc678de4652e.filesusr.com/ugd/c94e07_368d0f90c4ae4d8f9dc5c98f21aee6c1.pdf

X. Evapotranspiration Research Opportunities

Mark Battany, Farm Advisor for Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, presented concepts for Shandon area water studies and discussed the need to calibrate satellite data and the water use models with actual ground conditions. Potential methods for comparing manual shaded area measurements to satellite data and to aerial imagery, above-canopy images included Eddy Covariance Stations, Tule Sensors and upgrading local weather stations. No action was taken by the Board. The presentation can be viewed on the District's website at https://58c76411-b510-46ed-b41f-dc678de4652e.filesusr.com/ugd/c94e07_64a00bfda7574aef83c43a04552aceaa.pdf

XI. County of San Luis Obispo – Proposed Amendments to the 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. Director Sinton prepared the initial draft comments and reviewed them with the Board. It was agreed that a special Board meeting would be held on May 5, 2020 to

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discuss the comments in greater detail. Director Sinton and Director Turrentine will revise the draft dated April 10, 2020 to present at the meeting.

XII. Implementing the GSP - Data Collection

The GSP noted data gaps in the current RMS network. Given the adoption of the Paso Robles Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") it is now necessary for the GSA's to prepare for and begin implementation. The SSJWD Board has identified the initial endeavor of the development of an effective monitoring network for the area of the SSJWD. (GSP Chapter 7, "Monitoring Networks").

An iterative process, beginning with a large group of wells selected to examine for suitability of inclusion in the network will begin. These wells will be monitored for standing water depths at consistent, defined frequency. The data will be analyzed to identify hydrologically connected areas and areas with unique characteristics. This analysis will allow for the selection of a small number of truly representative monitoring wells to be included in the final GSP monitoring network.

GSI has been retained to outline requirements for a successful monitoring network and work with staff and landowners in identifying existing wells that are suitable for inclusion in the initial group, as well as what additions would be required to improve the network.

The identification of wells and their characteristics in the Basin is key to this task. SSJWD staff requested that the Board of the SSJWD direct all landowners to submit a list of all wells covered by the GSP, including at a minimum, location, depth and perforations to staff or GSI. This information will be used to create a database of wells in the district, and then combined with the monitoring network design parameters to establish a proposed network, and ultimately a budget for developing a monitoring network. Periodic groundwater extraction metering data will also be collected.

The Board directed SSJWD Staff and GSI Water Solution to prepare a self-reporting form along with a letter and instructions that will be sent to landowners. A special meeting will be held on May 5, 2020 to review the letter and worksheets.

XIII. Adjourn

Being no further business, President Cunha adjourned the meeting at 12:38pm. The next meeting will be held on May 5, 2020 at 9am.

Accepted:

Will Cunha, President

Date

Stephanie Bertoux, Secretary

Date