



# Joint Colusa Groundwater Authority and Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

## Special Meeting January 26, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Sites Project Office, 122 Old Highway 99, Maxwell, CA 95955

The meeting was also conducted via teleconference; accessible via telephone, computer, smartphone or tablet.

### MINUTES

**In Attendance:**

**Colusa Groundwater Authority:**

Director Members Present:	Alternate/2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate Directors	Agency Representing:
X Gary Evans	X Janice Bell	County of Colusa
X Jesse Cain	Greg Ponciano	City of Colusa
X Kate Dunlap	Alfred Sellers, Jr.	City of Williams
Blake Vann		Glenn Colusa Irrigation District
X Frank Nobriga	X Shelly Murphy	Colusa County Water District
Zach Dennis	Dan Ruiz	Westside Water District
Jim Campbell	Lance Boyd	Provident Irrigation District
X Hilary Reinhard	X Bill Vanderwaal (10:11)	Reclamation District 108
Derrick Strain	Vacant	Reclamation District 479
X Jim Wallace	Lynell Pollock	Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company
X Darrin Williams		Private Pumper
Jeff Moresco		Private Pumper

**Glenn Groundwater Authority:**

Director Members Present:	Alternate/2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate Directors	Agency Representing:
X Grant Carmon	Tom Arnold	County of Glenn
X Bruce Roundy	Pete Carr	City of Orland
	Ed Vonasek (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	City of Orland
X Gary Hansen	Tavis Beynon	City of Willows
Matt Deadmond	Vacant	Glide Water District
X John Amaro	Vacant	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X Charles Schonauer	Emil Cavagnolo	Orland-Artois Water District
X Randy Hansen	Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
X Mark Lohse	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District
Gary Enos	Jered Shipley	Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District/ Provident Irrigation District

**Others in Attendance:** Lisa Hunter (GGA), Kaitlyn Murray (GGA), Carol Thomas-Keefer (CGA), Ben King, Rod Bradford, Amy Williams, Arne Gustafson, Jeff Davids (Davids Engineering, Inc.), Katie Klug (Davids Engineering, Inc.), Valerie Kincaid (GGA Counsel), Alan Doud (CGA Counsel), Brandon Davison (DWR), M. Ward, Todd Bishop, Jenny Scheer, Glen, Ryan Fulton, Larry Maben, Erik Foraker, Lisa Porta, Craig Bradford, Jaime Lely, and Seth Lawrence.

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Introductions (CGA Board and GGA Board)**

Chair Williams (CGA) and Chair Hansen (GGA) called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Attendance was noted above. A quorum of members was present from each respective Board.

**2. Period of Public Comment**

Chair Williams opened the floor to public comment for items not on the agenda.

Mr. Ben King noted that area subsidence issues are ongoing, and resources including water and funding for the Sites Reservoir Project could be used to help address these issues.

Chair Williams then moved up action items 5 and 6 on the agenda in order to accommodate directors who may need to leave the meeting early.

**3. Agreement 1173.04 between Davids Engineering, Inc. and Colusa Groundwater Authority Task Order 2 for Phase 2 Colusa Subbasin GSP Revisions**

**a. \*Approve Davids Engineering Agreement 1173.04 Task Order 2 not to exceed \$186,221.00 (CGA)**

Ms. Lisa Hunter stated that Davids Engineering has prepared its Task Order 2 for the Phase 2 work on the GSP revisions. Phase 2 work includes development and preparation of the Plan revisions based on direction and feedback from the CGA and GGA boards and Joint Technical Advisory Committee during the Phase 1 work. She also noted that CGA is holding the contract with Davids Engineering for the work, so only the CGA Board will need to take action on this item. Ms. Katie Klug with Davids Engineering added this task will complete the GSP revision process and will bring the West Yost consultant team onto the project.

On motion made by Director Nobriga and seconded by Director Wallace, CGA approved Agreement 1173.04 Task Order 2 with Davids Engineering for Phase 2 GSP Revisions, in an amount not to exceed \$186,221.00.

AYES: Cain, Dunlap, Evans, Nobriga, Reinhard, Wallace, Williams  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Campbell, Dennis, Moresco, Strain, Vann

**b. \*Approve a cost share on a 50/50 basis between the Colusa Groundwater Authority and Glenn Groundwater Authority for Davids Engineering Agreement 1173.04 Task Order 2 not to exceed \$93,110.50 each**

Ms. Hunter explained that the work by Davids Engineering for the GSP revisions should be shared between CGA and GGA on a 50/50 basis. An equal share of the Phase 2 work amounts to \$93,110.50 for

each agency.

On motion made by Director Nobriga and seconded by Director Cain, CGA approved the 50/50 cost share of the cost of the Davids Engineering Agreement 1173.04 Task Order 2 for Phase 2 GSP revisions in amount not to exceed \$93,110.50.

AYES: Cain, Dunlap, Evans, Nobriga, Reinhard, Wallace, Williams  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Campbell, Dennis, Moresco, Strain, Vann

On motion made by Director Carmon and seconded by Director Schonauer, GGA approved the 50/50 cost share of the cost of the Davids Engineering Agreement 1173.04 Task Order 2 for Phase 2 GSP revisions in amount not to exceed \$93,110.50.

AYES: Amaro, Carmon, G. Hansen, R. Hansen, Lohse, Roundy, Schonauer  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Deadmond, Enos

#### **4. Proposal from Thaddeus Bettner, Water Ecology LLC, for GSP Support Services**

##### **a. \*Consider approval of proposal from Thaddeus Bettner, Water Ecology LLC, for strategic, policy, vision and implementation support for Colusa Subbasin GSP (approx. \$9,000/mo, duration TBD) (CGA)**

Chair Williams stated that he had spoken with Mr. Thaddeus Bettner regarding support for the Colusa Subbasin GSP revisions to ensure acceptance of the revised Plan. Mr. Bettner has provided a proposal for support of near-term activities to prepare the GSP revisions, and could also be available to assist with implementation of various GSP activities. The services would last at least until the revised GSP is submitted in April, and then would be re-evaluated. Chair Williams added that he hopes GGA will also consider joining CGA in retaining Mr. Bettner's services.

Following discussion, on motion made by Director Nobriga and seconded by Director Wallace, CGA approved the proposal from Thaddeus Bettner, Water Ecology LLC, for GSP support services, at an estimated cost of \$9,000 per month through April 2024, with an additional term to be determined by the CGA board.

AYES: Cain, Dunlap, Evans, Nobriga, Reinhard, Wallace, Williams  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Campbell, Dennis, Moresco, Strain, Vann

#### **5. Update on Water Year 2023 Annual Report**

Ms. Katie Klug and Mr. Jeff Davids, Davids Engineering (DE), provided an update on the preparation of the 2023 Annual Report. She added that a full report should be available for review by February 28, and presentations will be made to the two GSA boards.

## **6. Colusa Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)**

### **a. GSP revision schedule overview**

Ms. Klug discussed the results of the last two consultation meetings with DWR, reviewing the key deficiencies identified by DWR, and noting that DWR has indicated that revisions should focus on developing management actions as backstops to address overdraft and groundwater conditions, and the sustainable management criteria should be revised to better justify minimum thresholds for wells and minimize undesirable results.

### **b. Discussion and concurrence on approaches for estimating overdraft**

Ms. Klug reviewed SGMA regulations relating to overdraft, including quantification and mitigation measures. She stated that DE is proposing that overdraft in the Colusa Subbasin be calculated based on the period of 2016 through 2021, not only because the period reflects recent conditions but also because water conditions were similar to those during the 50-year period of 1966 through 2015. It also excludes the extraordinary conditions in 2022. Ms. Klug then reviewed the proposed change to the method of determining overdraft, explaining that overdraft in the original GSP was determined through use of the groundwater model, but that model only ran data through 2015. DE now proposes to use a groundwater level approach, using actual changes in groundwater levels. Other GSAs had used this method for calculating overdraft, and DWR indicated it was an acceptable method. Ms. Klug then stated that the new overdraft calculation using the groundwater level method for the period 2016 through 2021 indicated an overdraft of -59,000 acre-feet per year (AFY), compared to -28,000 AFY as indicated in the original GSP based on the model results (nearly double the original overdraft calculation). Discussion followed regarding the proposed revision to the overdraft estimate, and it was agreed that the GSAs and DE would move forward with the proposed change in estimating overdraft and would discuss further with DWR to ensure concurrence.

### **c. Discussion and concurrence on approach to update the Projects and Management Actions**

Ms. Klug stated that projects and managements actions (PMAs) are needed to address the revised overdraft, and, while the original GSP includes a variety of PMAs, these would require revisions to add timelines, benefits and project specifics to demonstrate their impact on overdraft. She noted that PMAs would also be required for domestic well impact mitigation and to address subsidence, and stated that DWR expects to see strong commitments toward measures to mitigate subsidence and well impacts in the event that projects alone are not sufficient, especially in the near term, including demand management. She recommended the “formal agreement approach” as the best opportunity to present a firm commitment to develop the management actions but allowing sufficient time to engage stakeholders and address legal, financial and operational issues. In response to a question from Mr. Wallace, Ms. Klug stated that a similar “formal agreement” approach was successfully presented in another basin’s GSP revisions, and the revised GSP was recently approved. She then presented a draft of a similar agreement that might serve as a basis for the Colusa Subbasin agreement structure. Following additional discussions regarding the potential sufficiency of a formal agreement to satisfy DWR’s requirements, Mr. Jeff Davids stated that he felt that a draft agreement could be presented to the group by next month if this proposed approach is acceptable. Considerable discussion followed regarding potential components of a well mitigation program as well as demand management options. Following additional discussion, the Joint Board concurred with moving forward with the “formal agreement” approach and having further discussions with DWR at the next consultation meeting.

### **d. Discussion on monitoring network and basis of Sustainable Management Criteria for land subsidence**

Ms. Klug stated that the current subsidence monitoring network is the Sacramento Valley Benchmark Network, which has not been surveyed in full since 2017. DWR recommends utilizing Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) data and revise the SMC to ensure no subsidence past 2042. Discussion ensued on the accuracy of InSAR and the SMC related to subsidence. More discussion on this topic is expected to occur at the next Joint Board meeting.

## **7. Member Reports and Comments**

Director Schonauer reported that Emil Cavagnolo is retiring as the General Manager of the Orland-Artois Water District, and the District has hired Justin Dahl as its new General Manager. Mr. Dahl will begin his new position in February.

## **8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.