

Director AB 1234 Report
December 15, 2020

Director name: Gary Martin
Meeting attended: ACWA Groundwater Committee Meeting
Date of meeting: December 8, 2020
Location: Virtual
SCV Water Board meeting to be presented at: December 15, 2020

On December 8, I attended the ACWA Groundwater Committee meeting (see attached agenda).

Points of Interest:

- Nancy Vogel, Director, Governor Newsom's Water Resiliency Portfolio (WRP) program reported on the implementation of the program as it relates to SGMA. An interagency taskforce has been created to develop tools and strategies for supporting local agencies as they implement SGMA as part of the Water Resiliency Portfolio. The taskforce will seek to leverage existing state resources and connect staff at the SWRCB and DWR. The group will be divided into three teams, which will focus on different elements of SGMA implementation: Team 1, balance pumping and recharge, climate change impacts on water right allocations; Team 2, societal and economic impacts; Team 3, reducing regulatory impediments, connections are state program level to identify and reduce program divergence. Committee Chair Woodling asked what deliverable would be forthcoming from the team's work. Ms. Vogel responded that she hoped to see a better organized and integrated state response that goes beyond just SGMA.
- Taryn Ravazzini, Deputy Director of Statewide Groundwater Management, and her team of Steven Springhorn, Keith Wallace and Craig Altare from DWR provided an update on SGMA implementation, California's Groundwater Update 2020 (B-118). Ms. Ravazzini described DWR's assistance and regulatory roles, and how they relate to the WRP. Steven Springhorn discussed the 2020 B-118 update and stated that public review draft in late 2020 or early 2021, which will initiate the 45-day public comment period. Mr. Springhorn provided a summary update on the various technical assistance that is available and when updates can be available. Keith Wallace discussed the implementation grant program. Craig Altare discussed GSP review and provided a status update.
- Natalie Stork, Chief of Groundwater Management Program for the SWRCB discussed GSP review and coordination with DWR. Ms. Stork emphasized that DWR will make the final determination of adequacy of GSP's, and that SWRCB's review will be in areas where it has long standing jurisdiction, such as water quality and water rights. Their goal is to identify concerns early in the process so that they can be addressed. They would also have an intervention role if DWR declares a GSP inadequate.
- Abigail Madrone, President, Groundwater Resource Association (GRA), provided an update on GRA's strategic initiatives and events. She reviewed the organizational structure and provided 2002 highlights. Membership is at "1,000 strong," Visit GRAC.ORG for more info.
- The committee received a brief update from Chris Austin (Maven's Notebook) on the Groundwater Exchange, a third webpage she has created and is working on with other contributors. It can be found at groundwaterexchange.org. This is also in addition to the California Water Library, which can be found at cawaterlibrary.net.

- Eric Garner, Managing Partner at Best, Best and Krieger (BBK) made a presentation entitled “How Courts Will View Water Rights and Groundwater Allocations Under “SGMA.” I thought it was a very interesting presentation, but somewhat discouraging if you were hoping to keep disputes arising from SGMA implementation out of the courts. Eric made two key points before he proceeded: 1) everybody has their day in court, and 2) the courts will determine water rights. Eric gave an explanation of the three basic types of water rights; overlying, appropriative, and prescriptive. He also described the court’s general approach to arrive at a “fair result.” Eric emphasized that there is no cookie cutter solution and that each case will be different. He referenced a paper that he co-authored that might be useful. It is entitled “The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and Common Law of Groundwater Rights – Finding a Consistent Path Forward for Groundwater Allocation,” and can be found at <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3368r414>.

Groundwater Committee Meeting

December 8, 2020 • 9am – 11am

Location: Virtual (Meeting Link Below)

Chair: John Woodling

Vice Chair: Michael Markus

Staff Liaison: Lauren Bernadett

Meeting Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/775900573>

You can also call in by phone: (571) 317-3122; Access Code: 775 900 573

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>I. Welcome & Introductions</p> <p>AGENCY UPDATES</p> <p>II. Water Resilience Portfolio Implementation Related to SGMA</p> <p>III. DWR Update: SGMA Implementation, California's Groundwater Update 2020 (B-118) & More</p> <p>IV. SWRCB Update: GSP Review and Coordination with DWR</p> <p>PARTNER UPDATES</p> <p>V. Update on GRA's Strategic Initiatives and Events</p> <p>VI. Update on the Groundwater Exchange</p> <p>NEW ITEMS</p> <p>VII. How Courts Will View Water Rights and Groundwater Allocations Under SGMA</p> <p>SUBCOMMITTEES</p> <p>VIII. Discussion on 2020-21 Subcommittee Functions</p> <p>IX. Closing</p> | <p>John Woodling, Chair</p> <p>Nancy Vogel, Director,
Governor's Water Portfolio
Program, CNRA</p> <p>Taryn Ravazzini, Deputy Director
of Statewide Groundwater
Management, DWR
SGMO Management Team</p> <p>Natalie Stork, Chief,
Groundwater Management
Program, SWRCB</p> <p>Abigail Madrone,
Groundwater Resources
Association</p> <p>Chris Austin, Maven's
Notebook</p> <p>Eric Garner, Managing
Partner, Best Best & Krieger</p> <p>John Woodling, Chair</p> <p>John Woodling, Chair</p> |
|---|---|

Next Meeting: – March, TBD

[This page intentionally left blank.]

Director AB 1234 Report
December 15, 2020

Director name: Gary Martin
Meeting attended: ACWA Region 8 Membership Meeting
Date of meeting: December 9, 2020
Location: Virtual
SCV Water Board meeting to be presented at: December 15, 2020

On December 9, I attended the ACWA Region 8 membership meeting. The points of interest below are listed in the order of the agenda.

Points of Interest:

- Steve Blois, Region 8 Chair, called the meeting to order.
- Dave Eggerton, ACWA Executive Director, welcomed the group and provided an ACWA update on priority issues that focused heavily on Governor Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio and the work ACWA is doing to support that effort.
- Attendees who were designated to provide reports on their ACWA Committee meetings were then called upon to report. I gave a report of the Groundwater Committee meeting on 12/8. Other committees were Federal Affairs, Finance, Local Government, State Legislature, Water Quality, Outreach Task Force, Agriculture, Business Development, Communications, Energy, Legal Affairs, Membership, and Water Management.
- Attendees received a report on the Region 8 virtual event on November 3 which was part of the ACWA "Zooming through California" program.
- Attendees received a report on the 2020 region election timeline, and on the committee appointment process.
- There was no additional discussion and the meeting was adjourned.