

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Regular Meeting
Manteca, California
April 16, 2025**

The Governing Board of the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) met in regular session in person at the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) Board Room at 9:00 a.m., with public access provided via the online Zoom meeting platform. Chairman de Graaf called the meeting to order and led the flag salute.

Upon roll-call the following members were noted present:

PRESENT: Daniel de Graaf, City of Ripon
 Jaylen French, City of Escalon
 Robert Holmes, South San Joaquin Irrigation District
 Billy Van Ryn, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

ABSENT: Mike Weststeyn, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

Also present were SSJID General Manager Peter Rietkerk, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator and SSJGSA Secretary Brandon Nakagawa, Special SSJGSA Counsel Valerie Kincaid, and SSJID Clerk of the Board Danielle Barney.

Public Comment – None

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #1 – Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2025

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holmes and seconded by Director French to approve the minutes as submitted.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	de GRAAF FRENCH HOLMES VAN RYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	WESTSTEYN

Item #2 – Quarterly Presentation of Financial Statements through March 2025

Ms. Denise Freiwald, SSJID Accountant, addressed the Board and gave a quarterly oral presentation of the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Financial Statements through March 31, 2025. She provided detailed descriptions of the balance sheets, cash balances, accounts payable, bank reconciliation, statement of changes in net position, statements of members' capital, expense reimbursements to the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, and SSJGSA budget balance to date.

The Board inquired about the status to have the monthly banking fees removed, to which SSJID Finance and Administration Manager Sonya Williams responded that the financial institution is having staffing issues and she is attempting to coordinate a meeting with them to discuss the SSJGSA account fees.

Item #3 – Discussion on April 9, 2025 Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Meeting

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator and SSJGSA Secretary, addressed the Board noting the PowerPoint presentation from the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) Board meeting on April 9, which was included in the SSJGSA board packet, Item #3, Attachment A. Discussion and/or action at the ESJGWA board meeting included:

- ESJGWA Steering Committee was dissolved.
- SSJGSA Director Bob Holmes was elected as the ESJGWA Chair.
- Discussion of roles and responsibilities of the ESJGWA Chair, Ad Hoc Executive Committee (EC), and Executive Director.
- Executive Director Search – Job opening posted on the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) “Careers and Opportunities” website. Six (6) job applications received to date. An Ad Hoc EC meeting is scheduled for April 17 to vet applications and discuss next steps. The application deadline is May 20.
- Groundwater Pumping Data – More accurate data is needed. Discussion included alternate methods including satellite imagery.
- ESJGWA FY 2024-2025 Budget – Discussion included costs for Executive Director and County staff professional services, and a \$1.3 million budget deficit discovered resulting from a duplicate entry of revenue. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) should anticipate FY 2025-2026 membership dues to double.

Director Holmes stated that the ESJGWA had added a GSA “Spotlight” section to their board meetings, whereby a selected GSA gives a presentation highlighting their agency’s history, services, groundwater status, and plans for the future. North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD) was highlighted at the April 9 meeting, with a presentation provided by NSJWCD General Manager Steve Schwabauer.

Director Holmes noted additional ESJGWA board meeting discussion included staying current on Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) required paperwork and the GSP process; to begin groundwater recharge projects; and that some GSAs are requesting to rejoin the ESJGWA after previously terminating their membership.

SSJGSA Board discussion included the search and budget for a satellite data company, ESJGWA versus individual GSAs contracting with a satellite data company, and the importance of basin-wide uniformity of data collection.

Mr. Nakagawa noted the newly elected members to San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and they being relatively new to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and water issues, in general.

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #4 – Various Reports to the Governing Board:

a) Staff and Consultant Updates

The SSJGSA has been selected to give the next ESJGWA “Spotlight” presentation. Presentation highlights will include the Canyon Tunnel Project, the Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant connections, and wastewater issues.

- b) **Technical Advisory Committee**
None
- c) **Member Reports**
None
- d) **Correspondence**
None

The Board convened to Closed Session at 9:26 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Item #5 – Closed Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:11 a.m. No reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

Item #6 – Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board