

**SAN LUIS & DELTA – MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY  
MINUTES- GRASSLAND BASIN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
July 19, 2019**

The Grassland Basin Drainage Steering Committee (GBDSC) met at 9:30a.m. at 8426<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Banos, California with Mike Stearns presiding.

**Directors and Alternate Directors in Attendance**

**Camp 13 Drainage District**

David Cory, Member

**Charleston Drainage District**

Tom Teixeira, Member

**Firebaugh Canal Water District**

Kevin Hurd, Member - Jeff Bryant, Alternate

**Pacheco Water District**

David Parreira, Member

**Panoche Drainage District**

Mike Stearns, Member

**SLDMWA Staff Present**

Joe McGahan, Drainage Coordinator

Gabriel Delgado, Legal Counsel

Diane Rathmann, Legal Counsel (via  
teleconference)

**Others Present**

Miguel Gonzalez, Panoche Drainage District

Ara Azhderian, PWD

**1. Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

**2. Committee to Consider Approval of June 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes.**

After review of the Meeting Minutes of the June 21, 2019 Grassland Basin Drainage Steering Committee (GBDSC), Committee Member Tom Teixeira moved to approve the June 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Committee Member David Parreira and passed unanimously.

AYES: Cory, Teixeira, Hurd, Parreira, Stearns

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

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**3. Committee to Consider Acceptance of Financial Expenditures Report.**

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan presented the Financial Report for the period ending 7/18/19. Following McGahan presenting the Financial Report and responding to questions as to the removal of sediment from the drain, Committee Member David Parreira moved to accept the Financial Expenditures Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Hurd and passed unanimously.

AYES: Cory, Teixeira, Hurd, Parreira, Stearns

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

**4. Committee to Consider Recommending that Board of Directors Approve Resolution Adopting CEQA Findings of Fact and Approving Addendum to 2009 Final EIS/EIR for the Grassland Bypass Project for the Long-Term Storm Water Management Plan 2020-2045, and Authorizing Related Actions.**

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan expounded that this addendum will be necessary to move the CEQA for Long-Term Storm Water Plan and its Use Agreement. McGahan continued by explaining this addendum is to the 2009 EIR / EIS. Following McGahan discussing a few of the process intricacies, Committee Member Cory moved to table this Agenda Item and put the addendum out for public comment. The motion was seconded by Committee Member David Parreira and passed unanimously.

AYES: Cory, Teixeira, Hurd, Parreira, Stearns

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

**5. Committee to Consider Authorizing Engagement of Expert Legal Counsel Regarding Proposed Use Agreement with Reclamation and Recommending that Board of Directors Approve Budget Amendment, if Needed, to Fund the Engagement**

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan explained that he has been in the discussion phase with Reclamation as to the proposed Use Agreement and noted it has become apparent there is a need for outside council for the NEPA process in order to acquire the Long-Term Storm water and Use Agreement Plan. McGahan reviewed the scope of work with the Committee and noted he has an individual in mind who has extensive NEPA experience. Following a lengthy discussion, McGahan noted the cost will be covered by way of budget savings. Committee Member Tom Teixeira moved to moved to Authorized Engagement of Expert Legal Counsel Regarding Proposed Use Agreement with Reclamation, and recommended that the Board of Directors Approve Budget Amendment, if

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needed to Fund the Engagement. The motion was seconded by Committee Member David Cory and passed unanimously.

AYES: Cory, Teixeira, Hurd, Parreira, Stearns  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

**6. Committee to Receive Update on Outreach on Long Term Storm Water Management Plan.**

- a. Outreach Meetings - Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan referred to a proposed schedule for the Long-term Storm Water Management Plan in the meeting packet with the final two items being: Addendum and NOD being adopted at the November 7, 2019 San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority Meeting with the final step being the Regional Board Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, 2019. McGahan noted the achieving of Mud Slough water quality objective is a must. McGahan discussed comments from: Contra Costa, Pacific Advocates, Local Federal Fish and Wildlife Service and Local State Fish and Wildlife Service.
- b. Regional Board and USBR Meetings – Discussed earlier in meeting.
- c. Schedule - In print in meeting packet.

**7. Committee to Receive Report on the Status of the Prop 84 Grant Application.**

Ara Azhderian reported work is planned through the Prop 84 Grant for: tile sump automation, land purchase and optimization of the displacement of water on the San Joaquin River Water Quality Improvement Project.

**8. Committee to Receive Report and Provide Feedback on the Operation and Ongoing Expenses of the SJRIP.**

Ara Azhderian discussed; Jose tall wheatgrass yield, Mitigation issues and the search for better quality well water on the project in order to meet Panoche, Pacheco and Charleston's Mitigation water obligations. Azhderian concluded his report by discussing crop income on the project.

**9. Grassland Bypass Project Updates**

- a. Operations Report – Miguel Gonzalez reported today's flow at Site B is 1.5 c.f.s. Site A has 0 flow; with a projected 2 pound discharge for the month. Flows at the San Joaquin River Water Quality Project for the past 7 and one-half years was reviewed in graphic form.

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- b. Volumes and Loads Report/2018 Use Agreement Provisions - Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan reported 222 pounds of selenium is estimated through June 2019. Salt Load at Site A is under Target. Discharges from the Grassland Drainage Area for the past three years was reviewed in graphic form.
- c. Monitoring Program and Toxicity Data Report – Np Report.

#### **10. Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharge to Groundwater Water**

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan reported there are 10 wells in the Trend Monitoring Program and all growers in the GBD area have submitted necessary documents.

#### **11. Update on the Westside Regional Drainage Plan.**

- a. Update on Grants – No Report.
- b. Update on Treatment Pilot Studies – Ara Azhderian reported Panoche Water District is in the Grant Close out phase of the Treatment Plant.

#### **12. Review Status of Salt/Boron TMDL & Basin Plan Amendment/CV-SALTS**

- a. Framework for Real Time Management Program Update – Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan explained the Real Time Management Program has a Prop 84 Grant for station upgrades with the process continuing.
- b. CV-SALTS Update – David Cory reported on a workshop with the State Water Resources Control Board and awaits approval.

#### **13. Drainage Coordinator’s Report.**

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan noted he had nothing additional to report.

#### **14. Reports from District Representatives.**

David Cory discussed the Drainage JPA formation and its objectives for meeting drainage needs.

#### **15. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is August 16, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

#### **16. Closed Session**

At approximately 10:50 a.m., the Steering Committee adjourned to closed session for the pending and anticipated Items of litigation listed on the Closed Session Agenda.

#### **17. Return from Closed Session, if Required by Government Code Section 54957.1**

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The Steering Committee returned to open session at approximately 11:08 a.m. Counsel Diane Rathmann reported that the Steering Committee met with counsel concerning the items listed on the Closed Session agenda, but took no reportable action.

**18. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2**

No Report given.

**19. Adjournment**

Chairman Mike Stearns adjourned the meeting of the Grassland Basin Drainers Steering Committee at 11:10 a.m.