

ZONE 7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SUMMARY NOTES OF THE WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

November 8, 2021
3:00 p.m.

Directors present: Director Figuers
Director Gambs
Director Palmer

Staff present: Valerie Pryor, General Manager
Osborn Solitei, Treasurer/Assistant General Manager – Finance
Carol Mahoney, Government Relations Manager
Ken Minn, Groundwater Resources Manager
Tom Rooze, Associate Geologist
Colleen Winey, Associate Geologist
Donna Fabian, Executive Assistant

Director Palmer called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

Public comment was received from Kelly Abreu, a resident of Fremont

2. Five Year Update to the Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan – Public Review Draft

Tom Rooze, Associate Geologist, along with Anona Dutton of EKI Environment & Water, Inc., presented the Public Review Draft of the Five-year Update to the Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Alternative GSP). Mr. Rooze presented the summary of the work that was completed for the update to the Alternative GSP, and the updates for each of the five sustainability indicators that are relevant to the Livermore groundwater basin: groundwater levels, groundwater storage, subsidence, groundwater quality, and interconnected surface water. The presentation will be added as supplemental materials to the agenda on the website.

Mr. Rooze stated that the next steps for the adoption of the Alternative GSP are posting the report on the website and holding stakeholder meetings. Public comments are due December 3rd. The public hearing and adoption is scheduled for the December 15 Board Meeting and staff hopes to submit it to the Department of Water Resources before the January 1, 2022 deadline. Staff also recommends upgrading the current groundwater model to integrate fringe and upland management areas and incorporate up-to-date hydrogeological data, update the well master plan, and conduct groundwater storage calculations.

Director Gambs asked about the groundwater storage goal and how it doesn't include the idea of providing enough storage for a drought. He asked why that criteria isn't in the report. Mr. Rooze responded that the Update is to meet Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) compliance requirements and address DWR's recommendations.

Director Gambs added that we are not using the storage in the basin fully. We are not taking advantage of the theoretical ability to put more water in there, and in the future, he hopes we could manage it more like that. He would like us not to spend \$10 million to buy water if we can draw down the basin and manage it. Mr. Rooze replied that an upgraded groundwater model will be essential to better manage the basin storage for drought supplies.

Director Palmer stated she doesn't have any questions other than this is going to get us through the requirements of Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Director Figuers stated that the draft looks good but sections 7.1-1 to 7-3 need some reworking. Since he had quite a few recommendations, Carol Mahoney stated that it would be useful for staff to sit down with Director Figuers to review his suggestions.

Director Palmer suggested the Committee do a markup to the document and give it to staff as opposed to going over every detail during the meeting.

Director Figuers added that there isn't mention of groundwater age-dating, isotope analysis or something similar as those are very common hydrogeologic analyses. He thinks it is critical to look at space both laterally and vertically but acknowledge that these may be outside the scope of this update. Staff noted the comments.

Public comment was received from David Lunn, a Livermore resident.

Director Palmer stated that the Update to the Alternative GSP will be brought to the full Board in December.

3. Verbal Reports – none

4. Adjournment

Director Palmer adjourned the meeting at 4:09 p.m.