

UVRB De Minimis Pumper Meeting

Draft Meeting Minutes 9/26/2016

At approximately 7:00 pm Bruce Kuebler opened the meeting with introductions from around the table. All member agencies were in attendance with the exception of the City Of Ventura.

To initiate discussion of representation, Bruce Kuebler said his interests as a homeowner were the same as his interests as a water district director:

- He wants a reliable water supply.
- He wants water at low cost.
- He wants to be environmentally responsible.
- He doesn't want to be regulated.
- He wants to be treated fairly.

He asked other Formation Committee (FC) members to share their interests. Some agreed with him; others gave their personal views.

Private well owners were asked how they would state their interests. After some discussion, there was consensus to add:

- They want to be kept informed.
- They want to be actively engaged in preparing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) through some sort of advisory committee or a private well owners group similar to the Los Posas Users Group in Fox Canyon.

In regard to being actively engaged, they liked having an interactive website where they could react to and comment on Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) board activities.

Stakeholders:

Lee Davis started by stating that he had some concerns about some of the language in the JPA, specifically, Eminent Domain and extraction fees. Mr. Davis didn't feel that he should be subject to any extraction fees.

Joe Randall shared the same concerns as Mr. Davis.

Emily Ayala with Friends Ranch had no specific concerns but added based on her experience with OBGMA, a GSA can do a lot good things and that it won't be as bad as people think. Emily stated that the GSA is also a good source of information regarding the basin.

Gus Garcia, Troy Luna and Francis Fitting with Tico Mutual shared concerns about how much it would cost but on the other hand, understood the complexity and the need.

Sophia had concerns regarding fees, water rights, and how the information would get back to the stakeholders.

Background:

Zoe Carlson gave a brief presentation about SGMA. Legislative goals, the GSA structure, and how its arranged through an MOU and JPA. She talked about the GSA's powers, GSP and the GSP requirements including; Timeline, undesirable results, mitigation, sustainable Yield, groundwater allocations and alternative supplies.

Zoe briefly touched on Beneficial uses and users; she talked about holders of overlying rights, domestic well owners, municipal, public, local, environmental, surface water users federal government, native tribes and Disadvantaged Communities (DAC's).

Summary:

Eminent Domain; The committee explained that it is an existing legal right for the member agencies and that it's in the JPA as merely a listed power. It was explained that this power is not likely to be used by the GSA

Extraction Fees:

Bert Rapp spoke, giving an example of extraction fees stating that he felt they would be minimal.

Representation:

The committee agreed that an advisory committee representing de minimus users would be a good idea. The committee would be a good conduit for communication between the GSA and small pumpers. The GSA will consider advisory committees after it is formed.

Water Rights:

It was explained that under SGMA, the GSA does not have the authority to determine water rights, only the authority to regulate quantity.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.