

Minutes

EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

January 16, 2015

1:00 P.M. Ventura River Water District

Persons attending:

Meiners Oaks Water District: Mike Krumpschmidt, Mike Hollebrands

Casitas Municipal Water District: Mary Bergen, Pete Kaiser, Steve Wickstrum

Ventura River Water District: Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Bert Rapp

City of Ventura Water: Shana Epstein

Watershed Protection District: Tully Clifford

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck: Russ McGlothlin

2. Desired Role for the County in the new GSA – Tully indicated that when a basin does not have agencies with technical expertise he will recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County be directly involved in those basins. Tully will use his budget to contribute 1/5th of the Exploratory Committee's costs leading to formation of the GSA. After much discussion consensus was reached that the County Watershed Protection District would be involved in the preliminary activities for forming a GSA and their final role will be re-evaluated prior to the GSA's formation.
3. Memorandum of Understanding – Some revisions were made to the draft MOU. Bert will send out the revised draft to each agency who will process to their attorney for review. Revisions will be sent to Bert who will forward them out to the group. Then each agency will schedule for adoption along with approval of a fee agreement with BHFS. The Ventura River Water District was selected to be the signatory agency for contracts under the MOU because of the shorter processing time for a smaller agency.
4. Legal services: update & discussion – The cost proposal from Russ McGlothlin of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck (BHFS) was reviewed and discussed. Consensus was reached that Russ McGlothlin will submit a Fee Agreement within two weeks for a not to exceed amount of \$40,000 to cover the formation of a Joint Powers Authority as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency. After formation of a GSA an additional authorization will be needed operating the GSA and to begin preparing a Groundwater

Sustainability Plan. Russ indicated that a JPA could be formed in a manor to allow a representative of mutual water company pumpers, agricultural pumpers, or a non-governmental organization to participate as voting members on the Ground Water Sustainability Agency, similar to the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency.

5. Schedule Review – The schedule was reviewed and new dates set. Stake holder meetings were added beginning as early as February 2015. A copy of the updated schedule is attached.
6. Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 P.M.