



SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (SABGSA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Tuesday, February 18, 2025

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Randy Sharer at 6:00pm at the Los Alamos Community Services District, located at 82 St. Joseph Street, Los Alamos, CA. Members of the public had the option to participate virtually or in-person.

Board of Directors Present: Dan Chabot, Tom Durant, Kevin Merrill, Kenny Pata, Randy Sharer, Alternate Brad Vidro, Chris Wrather.

Directors Absent: Juan Gomez, Patrice Mosby

Alternates present, but not acting on behalf of a Director: Jim Stollberg

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA**

No public comment.

4. **CONSENT ITEMS**

a. **Minutes from January 21, 2025, SABGSA Board Meeting**

Motion by Director Merrill, second by Director Chabot to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025 Board meeting, as presented.

Ayes: Dan Chabot, Tom Durant, Kevin Merrill, Kenny Pata, Randy Sharer, Alternate Brad Vidro, Chris Wrather.

Nos: None; **Absent:** Juan Gomez, Patrice Mosby; **Abstain:** None

b. **Agency Finances, Budgeting, and Training**

Motion by Director Durant, second by Director Chabot to approve the financial report dated January 31, 2025, as presented.

Ayes: Dan Chabot, Tom Durant, Kevin Merrill, Kenny Pata, Randy Sharer, Alternate Brad Vidro, Chris Wrather.

Nos: None; **Absent:** Juan Gomez, Patrice Mosby; **Abstain:** None

5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

a. **SABGSA Executive Director Updates**

- The GSP Annual Report is underway. GSI Water Solutions, Inc. will present the draft report under agenda item 7a.
- SABGSA requested \$24,996.81 from the SABWD on February 12, 2025 to cover invoices received this month.
- SB1156 – Form 700 Filing Requirements. SABGSA Board (and Alternates) and Executive Director are now required to file Form 700 with the Fair Political Practices Commission by April 1, 2025. This is in addition to filing Form 700 with the County of Santa Barbara by April 1, 2025. SABGSA will track both submittals on the Board Training/Certifications Report.

b. San Antonio Basin Water District (SABWD) Update

Executive Director Donna Glass reported the following.

- The SABWD Board of Directors did not meet in February 2025.
- The Wallace Group completed the Re-Evaluation of the Irrigated versus Non-Irrigated Lands. Letters, Change Order Forms, Policy for Evaluating Requests for Assessment Changes, and their current Irrigated versus Non-Irrigated acreage were mailed to all landowners on February 14, 2025. If the change in irrigated acreage from the previous assessment was greater than 10%, a map of the previous assessment and current 2025 assessment was included. If a landowner did not receive a map, they are available by request. Change Order Request Forms for an increase or decrease in irrigated acres are due by March 31, 2025.
- As of February 13, 2025, \$509,304 or 91% of the 2024-25 Assessments have been collected. The remaining balance is \$50,066. Payment reminders were sent out on January 3, 2025, and Assessments become delinquent on February 3, 2025.
- The SABWD approved a fund request from the SABGSA for \$24,981.13 to cover monthly invoices.

c. Advisory Committee Updates

- The Advisory Committee did not meet in February 2025.

d. Board Member Updates

- None.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

a. Consider Ordinance No. 25-001 to Adopt and Implement a Well Metering and Groundwater Extraction Reporting Program

At the January 21, 2025 meeting, the Board considered Ordinance 25-001. During public comment, important questions were raised regarding potential pathways for exemption for wells without a power source and/or were not currently active. The proposed Ordinance did not contain exemptions for “inactive” or “abandoned” wells. The Board directed SABGSA legal counsel to work with SABGSA staff to outline potential exemptions for inactive and abandoned wells and prepare a revised Ordinance for consideration at the February 18, 2025 meeting.

SABGSA Chair Randy Sharer read the title of the Ordinance into the record. SABGSA’s legal counsel outlined the proposed revisions to the Rules & Regulations. For transparency, a redline version of the proposed revisions was posted on SABGSA’s website and included in the agenda packet.

- Definitions added to Section 1 for “Abandoned” and “Inactive” Groundwater Extraction Facilities
- Exemptions added to Section 3A
- Added Sections H&I describing compliance and verification requirements for Inactive and Abandoned Wells

SABGSA staff provided an overview of the program requirements, compliance forms, and reporting deadlines.

Following discussion, the Board opened the public comment period. Two comments were received.

- Public Comment #1: Will SABGSA accept groundwater extraction reports electronically?
- Public Comment #2: How long can wells be “inactive”? Will SABGSA update the Frequently Asked Questions document?

Motion by Director Wrather, second by Director Chabot to approve Ordinance No. 25-001, as read by title only, waive further reading, and to continue the consideration of Ordinance No. 25-001 for adoption at the Board of Directors' March 18, 2025 meeting.

Ayes: Dan Chabot, Tom Durant, Kevin Merrill, Kenny Pata, Randy Sharer, Alternate Brad Vidro, Chris Wrather.

Nos: None; **Absent:** Juan Gomez, Patrice Mosby; **Abstain:** None

7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report for Water Year 2024

Michael McAlpin, GSI Water Solutions, Inc., presented the draft GSP Annual Report for Water Year 2024. Highlights include:

- **Groundwater Elevations:** Groundwater elevation trends observed at representative monitoring sites (RMSs) in the Basin were generally stable with seasonal fluctuations within historical ranges. Groundwater elevations observed in the Paso Robles Formation and Careaga Sand were generally higher during water year 2024 than water year 2023.
- **Groundwater Extractions:** The total groundwater extractions in the Basin for water year 2024 were approximately 14,000 AF compared to 15,300 AF the previous water year.
- **Surface Water:** Not applicable to the Basin
- **Change in Groundwater in Storage:** GSI has identified an error in the change in groundwater in storage volume in the Annual Report. GSI Water Solutions, Inc. is working to revise calculations. The updates will be reviewed at the March 18, 2025 Board meeting.
- **Progress Toward Sustainability:**
 - Approval of GSP in January 2024
 - Continued expansion and maintenance of the Groundwater Monitoring Network including installation of transducers (Tier 1 Management Action)
 - Development of the Well Metering and Groundwater Extraction Reporting Program (Tier 1 Management Action)
 - Sustainability Indicators: Minimum Thresholds for degraded groundwater quality, land subsidence, and interconnected surface water were not exceeded during this reporting period

The draft Annual Report is posted on SABGSA's website for review and public comment. Public comments can be emailed to: admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org. The final draft will be placed on the March 18, 2025 agenda to be considered for approval. The Board did not take action on this item.

8. NEXT MEETING:

March 18, 2025 at 6pm at Los Alamos Community Services District.

9. ADJOURN – 7:31pm