



SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (SABGSA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
Tuesday, September 17, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL** – The meeting was called to order by Chairman 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: Tom Durant, Juan Gomez, Alternate Richard Kline, Kevin Merrill, Patrice Mosby, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather.

Directors Absent: Dan Chabot, Kenny Pata

Alternates present, but not acting on behalf of a Director: None.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

No public comment.

4. **CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. **Approve Minutes from August 20, 2024, SABGSA Board Meeting**

SABGSA Executive Director noted one correction to the meeting minutes from August 20, 2024. The motion for Item 6.b. should read: “Motion by Director Merrill, second by Director Durant to approve the proposal from GSI Water Solutions, Inc. ~~for Vegetation Trimming~~ to Purchase and Install Transducers dated August 5, 2024 for a not to exceed amount of \$9,957.00, as presented.”

Motion by Director Durant, second by Director Merrill to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2024 Board meeting, with the correction noted.

Ayes: Tom Durant, Juan Gomez, Alternate Richard Kline, Kevin Merrill, Patrice Mosby, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather.

Nos: None; **Absent:** Dan Chabot, Kenny Pata; **Abstain:** None

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

Motion by Alternate Director Kline, second by Director Wrather to approve the financial report dated August 31, 2024, as presented.

Ayes: Tom Durant, Juan Gomez, Alternate Richard Kline, Kevin Merrill, Patrice Mosby, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather.

Nos: None; **Absent:** Dan Chabot, Kenny Pata; **Abstain:** None

5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- a. **SABGSA Executive Director Updates:**

- The vegetation trimming along well access trails near Barka Slough was completed August 27-28, 2024 and came in under budget.
- The Bureau of Reclamation has released two WaterSMART Grants. SABGSA Executive Director attended the webinar on August 29, 2024 and is meeting with the grant program coordinator on September 30, 2024. The Water and Energy Efficiency grant application is

due November 13, 2024. The Small-Scale Water Efficiency grant application is due January 14, 2025.

- DWR is offering funding for the purchase/installation of stream gage equipment and maintenance until June 2027. Letters of Interest are being accepted through December 31, 2024. SABGSA to review with GSI Water Solutions, Inc.
- Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-3-24 which terminates the drought state of emergency in Santa Barbara amongst 19 other counties. Related Executive Order's (N-7-22 and N-3-23) that required GSAs to provide written verification for well permitting have been rescinded. The County has also terminated their Urgency Ordinance. County EHS has confirmed that SABGSA is no longer required to review and provide written verification for well permitting applications. The County will revert to previous well permitting requirements. The two resolutions SABGSA passed regarding the Written Verification Policy (Resolution 22-001) and associated Fee Deposit & Agreement (Resolution 22-002) automatically terminate when the Executive Order is terminated so no Board action is required.

b. San Antonio Basin Water District Update

Executive Director Donna Glass reported that the San Antonio Basin Water District (SABWD) Board of Directors met on September 17, 2024.

- As of September 11, 2024, \$352,869 or 64% of the 2024-25 Assessments has been collected. Balance remaining is \$200,869. \$300,000 from the Operating Account will be transferred to the Investment Account, California CLASS, with an Average Monthly Yield of 5.40%.
- The SABWD Board approved a fund request from SABGSA for \$22,375.67 to cover invoices received this month.
- There are three SABWD Board members with terms expiring at the end of 2024. The SABWD received three filings – Kevin Merrill, Randy Sharer, and Andrew Reade – for three open seats so the County Board of Supervisors can appoint in lieu of an election. The Board of Supervisors was notified, and a request made to be added to their agenda before December 2, 2024.

c. Advisory Committee Updates

- The Advisory Committee did not meet in September 2024.

d. Board Member Updates

- None.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Consider Resolution 24-001 Approving SABGSA's Conflict of Interest Code

SABGSA is required to review its Conflict of Interest Code biennially to ensure it accurately designates all decision-making positions, the disclosure categories assigned to those positions are accurate, and includes all other provisions required by Government Code section 87302 and the County of Santa Barbara. The Board reviewed and discussed Resolution 24-001. **Motion by Director Merrill, second by Director Durant to approve Resolution 24-001, as presented.**

Ayes: Tom Durant, Juan Gomez, Alternate Richard Kline, Kevin Merrill, Patrice Mosby, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather.

Nos: None; **Absent:** Dan Chabot, Kenny Pata; **Abstain:** None

b. SABGSA Metering Program Draft Appeal Form and Fee and Deposit Agreement

SABGSA previously considered a draft Ordinance that would add meter requirements and an appeal process to the SABGSA Regulations. SABGSA legal counsel presented the draft Appeal Form

and draft Fee and Deposit Agreement. The draft Appeal Form is intended for landowners/operators to appeal decisions of SABGSA for review at a public hearing. The form follows the requirements set forth in Section 11 (Appeals) of the proposed Ordinance. The draft Fee and Deposit Agreement requires the Appellant to provide an initial deposit and potential additional deposits to pay for SABGSA staff/consultants' time to review the appeal and bring it before the Board. The initial deposit and consultant rates are to be determined based on reasonable costs. The Board did not take action on this item. The Appeal Form and Fee and Deposit Agreement will be considered for adoption at a future meeting.

c. SABGSA Metering Program Stakeholder Workshop

The Ad Hoc Committee provided the following recommendations to the Board regarding the stakeholder workshop for the metering program scheduled for October 15, 2024 at 6pm during SABGSA's regular board meeting. The Board agreed with the recommendations.

- The Board reviewed the draft workshop flyer and did not request any changes. The proposed communication process with stakeholders was also reviewed.
 - August 28, 2024: Notice was posted on SABGSA website
 - September 17, 2024: Discuss Workshop at Board meeting
 - September 25, 2024: Email blast w/flyer
 - October 3, 2024: Email blast w/flyer
 - October 10, 2024: Email blast w/flyer
 - October 11, 2024: Meeting Notice
- Public Participation: In-person and/or via Zoom
- Format: 30-45 minute presentation, followed by 30-45-minute Q&A period.
- Draft Outline for Presentation:
 - Basin Management, Why Metering, Basin Conditions – Randy Sharer
 - Development Process, Results of Well Registration, Meter Installation and Reporting Requirements, Enforcement/Penalties/Appeal Process, Timeline for Implementation – Stephanie Bertoux

d. Q3 2024 Groundwater Level Monitoring Report for the San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin

Chairman Sharer provided an overview of the Q3 2024 Quarterly Groundwater Level Monitoring Report prepared by GSI Water Solutions, Inc. The Q3 2024 report is posted on SABGSA's website. The Board did not take action on this item.

e. Consider a Proposal from GSI Water Solutions, Inc. to Prepare and Submit SABGSA's Annual Report for Water Year 2024

The Board reviewed and discussed the scope of work and associated fees for GSI Water Solutions, Inc. to prepare and submit the GSP Annual Report for Water Year 2024. **Motion by Director Wrather, second by Alternate Director Kline to approve the proposal from GSI Water Solutions, Inc., dated September 12, 2024, to Prepare and Submit SABGSA's Annual Report for Water Year 2024 for a not to exceed amount of \$57,500.00, as presented.**

Ayes: Tom Durant, Juan Gomez, Alternate Richard Kline, Kevin Merrill, Patrice Mosby, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather.

Nos: None; **Absent:** Dan Chabot, Kenny Pata; **Abstain:** None

7. NEXT MEETING/STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP:

October 15, 2024 at 6pm at the Los Alamos Community Services District.

8. ADJOURN – 7:05pm