

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2015
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF YOLO COUNTY**

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair, Bill Marble.

Board members present:	Bill Marble - City of Woodland, Chair Cecilia Aguiar-Curry – City of Winters, WRA Vice-Chair Jim Mayer – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Sid England – University of California Davis Beverly Sandeen – City of West Sacramento Duane Chamberlain – Yolo County Robb Davis – City of Davis
Alternate members present:	Tim O'Halloran – Yolo County Flood Control & WCD, WRA Treasurer Lewis Bair – Reclamation District 108 Jim Hilliard – City of Woodland Donita Hendrix – Dunnigan Water District Mabel Salon – University of California Davis Bob Clarke – City of Davis
Associate members present:	Jeanette Wrynski – Yolo County Resource Conservation District
Member agencies absent:	Reclamation District 2035
Public & Agency Staff:	Elisa Sabatini - Yolo County, WRA Technical Committee Chair David Guy - Northern California Water Association (NCWA) Cindy Tuttle - Yolo County Richard Reed - Yolo County Planning Commission, Yolo Land Trust Rob Beggs – Brown and Caldwell Bob Schneider - Tuleyome Betsy Marchand – Yocha DeHe Wintun Nation Dave Pratt John McKean Hayden Cornwell

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

3. PUBLIC FORUM: Nothing presented.

4. CONSENT ITEMS: The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the consent items.

- Approved minutes: November 17, 2014 Board meeting
- Received financial reports: November-December 2014
- Received minutes of Executive Committee (EC): 11/10, 12/15/14
- Received minutes of Technical Committee (TC): 11/6/14
- Received *The Year in Review: 2014* WRA Annual Newsletter

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Report from the WRA Chair: Bill attended the December ACWA¹ meeting, representing the WDCWA, and reported there were many workshops and discussions about the groundwater legislation. Bill acknowledged the Executive Committee and Donna Gentile for developing the WRA's annual newsletter of activities for the past year that was included with the agenda. The

¹ A list of acronyms and abbreviations has been included at the end of these minutes.

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newsletter is available on the WRA's home page as a pdf

file: http://www.yolowra.org/documents/WRA2014AnnualNewsletter_Jan2015.pdf

- 6. UPDATE ON WATER LEGISLATION & REGULATORY ISSUES** This item was discussed later in the agenda as we awaited the arrival of the speakers. Next items discussed were #7 and #9.
- a. Delta Update: Cindy Tuttle, deferred to David Guy for this update.
 - b. Legislation and Regulatory Update: David Guy, NCWA, reported that there are four pieces of the groundwater legislation to monitor. 1) The Governor's budget was released and Sacramento Valley water interests are lobbying to include funding for local entities to conduct work related to the groundwater legislation, such as establishing GSAs. There is approximately \$6 million in the budget's general fund that could be used for DWR facilitation services. There is approximately \$21 million in Proposition 1 for local assistance, hopefully some of that could be utilized for AB303 projects. 2) Senator Pavely has introduced several groundwater bills; one could be a placeholder for larger discussions about a streamlined adjudication process. Another bill is related to making well log information more public, which has been a controversial issue. 3) There is also interest in legislation for "clean-up" issues such as recharge. 4) Lastly the Administration wants to start implementing the water bond/Proposition 1 funding. If there is something in particular that Yolo County wants captured in the budget for local projects, please let David know. The legislative bill deadline is the end of February, so there is still time for more bills to be introduced.

On the regulatory side, the operations plans for the State (SWP) and Federal (CVP) projects should be submitted later this week to the SWRCB. It's hard to have an operations plan when no one really knows what the hydrology is going to be. They are considering a 50%, 90%, or 99% exceedance as potential options. The settlement and service contractors will be working closely with the Bureau of Reclamation to make sure the contracts are fully honored. Secondly, the SWRCB adopted a Temporary Urgency Change Permit (TUCP) last year, which relaxed standards in the Delta and allowed operations plans to function. Hopefully, DWR and US Bureau of Reclamation will file a petition soon with SWRCB to issue an order approving a TUCP for this year given current dry conditions. This order would adjust flow and water quality requirements in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for the next few months, allowing SWP and the CVP to conserve water supplies in upstream reservoirs and more effectively operate their facilities in response to ongoing drought conditions. Lastly, David anticipates that the SWRCB will be issuing a curtailment notice any day. This is a warning that would put people on alert for possible curtailment of future water rights diversions due to surface water shortages during dry years. If dry weather conditions persist, the SWRCB will notify water right holders in critically dry watershed of the requirement to limit or stop diversions of water based on their priority ranking. More information about notices can be found here: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/>.

David gave an update on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) from a Sacramento Valley Water Coalition perspective. The RWQCB's new waste discharge reporting requirements went into effect last year that now includes groundwater in addition to surface water. CH2M Hill prepared the *Sacramento Valley Water Coalition Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (June 2014)** for NCWA that was submitted to the RWQCB. The next phase is an implementation plan that includes a plan for management of high nitrate areas and a best management practices plan. David and Tim O'Halloran answered questions. Chair Marble suggested a future Board meeting update on the ILRP.

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*http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/water_issues/irrigated_lands/monitoring_plans_reports_reviews/assessment_reports/coalitions/sacvalley_groundwater_quality/140918_sacvalley_gar.pdf

7. WRA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (TC) UPDATE

- a. *Technical Committee (TC) Activities and Westside IRWMP Update:* Elisa Sabatini, TC Chair, reported that the Westside Coordinating Committee (CC) submitted an application for the EPA's Brownfields Coalition Assessment grant for about \$500,000 that doesn't require matching funds. The proposal primarily conducts an assessment of mercury mine sites in the Putah and Cache Creek watersheds in Yolo, Lake, Napa and Solano counties. Additionally, the Westside CC will be identifying projects that qualify for public education and outreach assistance later this year. Approximately \$100,000 of funding became available when DWR reimbursed the Westside for their Drought Grant application preparation expenses.

8. The "YEAR of GROUNDWATER", Tim O'Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD

- a. *Groundwater Legislation:* Tim reviewed previous work that the WRA has done to put Yolo County in a strong position for local groundwater management, such as, establishing a regional multi-agency groundwater level monitoring network, establishing and maintaining the WRID, developing a county-wide groundwater model (IGSM), creating a subsidence monitoring network, member agencies' development of AB 3030 groundwater management plans, becoming lead agency for the State's CASGEM program and engagement at State, Regional, and local levels to advance pro-active groundwater management activities. The WRA continues outreach and engagement with many regional entities. For example, Tim and Cindy Tuttle will be speaking at an upcoming groundwater governance workshop on January 26th that is sponsored by ACWA, CSAC, RCRC and the CWF in compliance with the SGMA.

The focus of Tim's presentation and discussion today will be on the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the definition of a GSA and its authorities. He distributed for consideration a draft resolution in support of the WRA acting as the planning forum for the creation of a GSA (attached at end of minutes). The first question to be answered and investigated is whether Yolo County's groundwater is sustainable. Has it been and will it continue to be? Tim summarized groundwater data gathered over the last 10 years in several graphs. If the Yolo region's groundwater usage is sustainable, then it probably isn't very critical who the GSA will be. However, if it is deemed unsustainable, then the role of the GSA becomes more important. Discussions so far have shown the general consensus is that we want to maintain local control versus giving control to a State agency. The GSA can be comprised of more than one agency. Tim reviewed the responsibilities and authorities of the GSA (reference Tim's PPT: http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html). The WRA seems like it would be a logical entity to become the GSA, however, the Board does not want to presume this possibility without holding discussions and outreach with a broad stakeholder base. The WRA would not be able to become the GSA in its current organizational structure (a California mutual benefit non-profit corporation). It would likely need to become a public agency such as a JPA.

Chair Marble opened up the floor for Board questions and discussion. Following is a selected list of responses to questions.

- The YCFB has agreed to be part of the GSA planning forum process with a designated attendee. The WRA feels it is instrumental to have the YCFB as a co-sponsor of this process. Although by definition of the legislation, they cannot formally be part of the GSA. Chair Marble refreshed everyone's memories about the stakeholder committee outreach that was undertaken by Yolo County in 2009 to develop groundwater ordinances and how important the YCFB was throughout that process.

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- GSA planning forum will be public meetings, anyone interested can participate in the process
- Suggestion to have planning forum meetings facilitated so everyone can equally participate
- WRA representatives were asked to bring the resolution to their boards/councils for adoption and provide to the WRA prior to the March 9th Board meeting (resolution attached at end of minutes). A letter of support can also be provided if that is more appropriate for an agency. The resolution document will be emailed to all member agencies for their use.
- First task is to understand extent of what is involved in designating a GSA and then designate that agency or agencies (DWR deadline June 30, 2017). Consideration and discussion will need to be given to what the GSA's authorities and functions will be. In order to answer the question of who will be the GSA and how it will be governed, we need to have a sophisticated understanding of what decisions the entity will be required to make and how they will make those decisions. Reference was made to reviewing the legislation's "Beneficial Uses and Users of Groundwater (10723.2)" to ensure that all stakeholders are identified and included in the public outreach planning process.
- State has given more time to develop the GSP (DWR deadline January 30, 2020 for basins in critical overdraft or 2022 if not in critical overdraft).
- The definition of sustainable groundwater management is in the SGMA and the GSA will need to provide proof of sustainability to meet the State's legislative standards: <http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/index.cfm>
- UC Davis' aquifer basin is in two counties, therefore county boundaries would not apply directly, how will the legislation handle such a situation for GSA governance? Would they need to be covered under two different GSAs? Tim explained how this issue has been under discussion with DWR. They have been open hearing what we think the basin boundaries should be, yet it appears they may be adhering to the Bulletin 118 basin boundary definitions.

The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the *Resolution in Support of the WRA Acting as the Planning Forum for Development of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency* and supported transmitting this resolution to the WRA member agencies for their adoption (by the March 9th WRA Board meeting).

- 9. WATER CONDITIONS UPDATE, Tim O'Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD**
- Tim discussed how we are in a hopeful period with the December storms. He took a few minutes to describe current water conditions and levels at Clear Lake and Indian Valley Reservoir, which are the primary agricultural water sources for Yolo County. There was almost a 3 foot increase on the Rumsey Gauge after the last December storm event. The minimum entitlement for the YCFC&WCD to release water is 3.22 feet on the Gauge, so they still do not have water available for distribution. When the Rumsey Gauge is at 7.56 feet, a full entitlement of 150,000 acre-feet is available. He explained the significance of the Grigsby Riffle. The riffle is at a narrow point in the creek and limits the amount of water which may flow past it, acting as a natural dam. Therefore, the riffle controls outflow from Clear Lake. He shared some photos to illustrate peak flows and debris in Cache Creek that passed over the Capay Dam throughout the December 12th storm. A 40 foot long, 2-3 foot diameter tree floated over the Dam and displaced a few of the large concrete energy dissipators. The dissipators were designed to reduce the energy of the water flow so that it lessens erosion of the Dam's base. Go to http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html to view Tim's PowerPoint presentation.

Tim invited Lewis, Donita and others to give an update on their current water conditions. Lewis Bair reported that David Guy is leading a group of Sacramento Valley water users regarding operations and different hydrology scenarios in order to stay a step ahead of current water management decisions and needs and for the summer. Donita reported that the Dunnigan Water District receives water from Shasta Dam which is currently at 40%. More rain is needed in order to have water available for their

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customers. Their water year starts in March, so they are in a “wait and see” position. Bill Marble asked if someone could give an update on Lake Oroville water conditions. David Guy reported that recent rains have helped Oroville levels, but because they are controlled by the State Project, they do not have the same issues that Lewis described from the Shasta water source. David said they would probably be preparing for a 50% available supply unless we receive some more heavy rains in the next few months. Bill reported the Davis Woodland Water Supply Project is on schedule for water delivery by June 2016. He also mentioned that the City of Woodland’s Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project continues to show promising results. As much as 90% of the water being pumped into wells is being retained. Duane Chamberlain asked a question about whether recharge water could be considered beneficial use. Tim answered his question and asked David Guy to address the recharge issue from a legislative perspective. Drafting legislation to help this issue is challenging, because it divides the water community depending on whether they are located up or down stream of the Delta. David said they will continue working on these issues with water managers around the Valley. David covered agenda item #6b next.

10. UPDATE on LOCAL FLOOD ACTIVITIES

- Flood Program Update, City of West Sacramento, Eric Nagy, MBK Engineers gave a report on the City’s flood program. The program’s goal is to provide the City of West Sacramento with 200-year flood protection by 2025 or earlier. The City is in a unique location that can be considered an “urban island” surrounded by the Sacramento River, Sacramento and Yolo Bypasses. Their flood program has a three pronged approach to reduce flood risk for the City. Firstly, the City established a relationship with DWR to advance early implementation levee improvement projects at high risk site locations. Secondly, a close partnership with the State and the USACE was established to work on the General Reevaluation Report (GRR). This is a planning process to develop a holistic flood plan among all three levels of government. The GRR allows for Federal appropriations to come to the table over time. Thirdly, the City monitors other funding opportunities as they become available, for example, grants that assist with emergency preparedness and response. Eric summarized the City’s accomplishments to date: 3 early implementation levee improvement projects with DWR and 3 levee improvement projects with USACE. Eric distributed a map of the projects that illustrated the locations of completed and future work. The City was recognized for their accomplishments by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) in 2014 with the National Award for Flood Outreach and Awareness.

Eric discussed the current focus of West Sacramento’s flood program. The GRR is scheduled to be completed this calendar year, which is a key step to eventually securing Congressional authorization. The Southport Early Implementation Project is an ambitious plan of a setback levee in an urban setting. Eric illustrated with a second map of the project’s proposed improvement locations along a 5 ½ mile reach of the Sacramento River. He highlighted some details about the project that is scheduled to begin later this year. WSAFCA is also initiating scoping for additional level improvement project(s). Lastly, the City is very involved in the RFMP effort that Cindy will give an update on at a future meeting. A copy of Eric’s handouts can be accessed at: http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html.

- Regional Flood Management Planning Update, Cindy Tuttle, Yolo County – In the interest of time, this item was postponed to the March meeting.

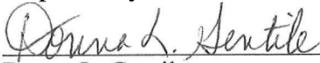
11. MEMBERS’ REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, Nothing additional was discussed.

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12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, March 9, 2015 from 3-5 pm, Woodland Community & Senior Center.

13. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Donna L. Gentile

Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator

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ACRONYMS and ABREVIATIONS

ACWA – Association of California Water Agencies
ASR – Aquifer Storage and Recovery
CASGEM – California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring
CSAC - California State Association of Counties
CVP – Central Valley Project
CWF – California Water Foundation
DWR – California Department of Water Resources
GRR - General Reevaluation Report
GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP - Groundwater Sustainability Plan
IGSM – Yolo County Integrated Groundwater and Surface Water Model
ILRP – Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
IRWMP – Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
NCWA – Northern California Water Association
RCAC – Rural County Representatives of California
RWQCB – Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
SGMA – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SWP – California State Water Project
SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board
TUCP – Temporary Urgency Change Permit
USACE – United States Army Corps of Engineers
WDCWA – Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency
WRID – Water Resources Information Database
WSAFCA – West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE *[GOVERNING BODY]* OF THE
[GOVERNNG AGENCY]
IN SUPPORT OF THE WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF YOLO COUNTY
ACTING AS THE PLANNING FORUM FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

WHEREAS, On September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a three-bill legislative package, composed of [AB 1739 \(Dickinson\)](#), [SB 1168 \(Pavley\)](#), and [SB 1319 \(Pavley\)](#), collectively known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The [Governor's signing message](#) states "a central feature of these bills is the recognition that groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally";

WHEREAS, among various requirements, the SGMA calls for the establishment of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to be formed by a local agency or a combination of local agencies by July 1, 2017,

WHEREAS, the GSA will be required to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by January 31, 2020, and will have certain responsibilities and authorities including;

- Defining an appropriate and acceptable definition of local groundwater sustainability and determining the need for groundwater management,
- Preparing and adopting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan along with implementing rules and regulations,
- Proposing and updating fees in order to implement the locally adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plan, and
- Monitoring compliance and enforcement of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

WHEREAS, for over twenty years the Water Resources Association of Yolo County (WRA) has served a critical role in water resource planning in Yolo County, including serving as the lead agency in the development of the 2007 Yolo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, and as the region's representative on the 2013 Sacramento Westside Integrated Regional Water Management Plan;

WHEREAS, the WRA membership consists of 10 public agencies (the County of Yolo, the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters and Woodland, Dunnigan Water District, Reclamation Districts 108 and 2035, University of California at Davis, and the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District) representing both urban and rural interests;

DRAFT

WHEREAS, the WRA and its member agencies have long been involved in groundwater management issues, including;

- Serving as the local agency for the State-wide CASGEM groundwater level monitoring program,
- Creation of a county-wide groundwater monitoring network including real-time sensors,
- Establishment and maintenance of a Water Resources Information Database (WRID),
- Development of a county-wide groundwater model (IGSM),
- Funding of a subsidence monitoring network, and
- Engagement at State, Regional and Local levels to advance pro-active groundwater management activities and legislation.

WHEREAS, the WRA has been actively engaged in the SGMA legislation and providing informational briefings for its member agencies and the general public throughout 2014; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the *[GOVERNING BODY]* of the *[GOVERNING AGENCY]* hereby supports the Water Resources Association of Yolo County, in coordination with the Yolo County Farm Bureau and other interested parties, to act as the planning forum for determining what agency or agencies will serve as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency as defined in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the *[GOVERNING BODY]* of the *[GOVERNING AGENCY]* on the *[DATE]* day of *[MONTH]*, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

[NAME, TITLE]

Attest:

[NAME, TITLE]