

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BEDFORD-COLDWATER
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AUTHORITY**

November 18, 2021

Board Present

Paul Rodriguez, TVWD
Jacque Casillas, City of Corona
Phil Williams, EVMWD

Staff Present

Jeff Pape, TVWD
Greg Thomas, EVMWD
Ganesh Krishnamurthy, EVMWD
Margie Armstrong, EVMWD
Parag Kalaria, EVMWD
Terese Quintanar, EVMWD
Christy Gonzalez, EVMWD
Susie Evans, EVMWD
Victor Harris, Stantec
Steve O'Neill, Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill, LLP
Chad Taylor, Todd Groundwater
Maureen Reilly, Todd Groundwater
Katie Hockett, City of Corona

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Bedford-Coldwater Groundwater Sustainability Authority was held via teleconference allowed under the waivers of the Brown Act in response to the COVID19 epidemic. Participants joined by accessing information posted on the meeting Agenda, posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting start time. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rodriguez at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None. Opportunity for Public was offered throughout the duration of the meeting.

1. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS (Resolution No. 21-01)

Mr. O'Neill reported that prior to the expiration of Executive Order N-29-20 on September 30, 2021, Governor Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill (AB) 361 granting extended additional flexibility to offer teleconferenced virtual public meetings. AB 361 will remain in effect until January 1, 2024, unless the State Legislature takes action to extend it or make it permanent. He continued that in the event of an interruption of the meeting, such as loss of internet connection, the Board would not proceed until that interruption is cured.

If the interruption is not remedied, it is recommended that the meeting be adjourned, with no further business conducted and re-noticed for a later date. He continued that that the opportunity for live public comment is to be provided throughout duration of the meeting.

The resolution would take effect immediately upon its adoption and is effective until the Board of Directors adopts a subsequent resolution. The Board would need to adopt a resolution each meeting, making findings regarding the continuing need to conduct teleconference instead of in-person meeting.

ACTION: Director Williams made a motion, Vice-Chairperson Casillas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously to:

1. Adopt the Resolution Proclaiming a State of Emergency Exists, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Gavin Newsom, and Authorizing Remote Teleconference meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bedford Coldwater Groundwater Sustainability Authority, pursuant to Brown Act Provisions.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of the August 19, 2021 Regular Meeting**
- B. Minutes of the September 22, 2021 Special Board Meeting**
- B. Financial Statement**
- C. Ratification of Demands**
- D. Back-up Information for Major Contracts**
- E. Outside Contract Summary Report**

Vice-Chairperson Casillas noted a typographical error in the header of the meeting minutes of September 22, 2021.

ACTION: Director Williams made a motion, Vice-Chairperson Casillas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar as amended.

3. BUSINESS CALENDAR

- A. Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Bedford-Coldwater Subbasin (Resolution No. 21-02)**

President Rodriguez opened the hearing at 4:11 p.m. and Victor Harris reported that Chad Taylor and Maureen Riley, two principal authors of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) were present virtually to answer any detailed questions. He began by providing a preview of the basin and described the sustainability goal for the Bedford-Coldwater Basin.

Next, he described the chronology of efforts involved in development of the GSP, including stakeholders' meetings, public review, board approval, Department of Water Resources' (DWR) submittal deadline and first annual report deadline. The GSP contains ten chapters, with all the required data in the format required by the DWR. One comment letter was received from the Groundwater Leadership Forum relaying concerns about descriptions of disadvantaged communities, identifying drinking water users and information about tribes. There was also concern about interconnected surface water and groundwater dependent ecosystems and lack of specifics regarding continued opportunity for stakeholder engagement. In response, we added clarifying verbiage on disadvantaged communities and tribes, added a two-phase project to do biological surveys of the wash, identifying permitting requirements and potential siting of monitoring wells in the Temescal Wash, and calling for vegetation surveys along the Temescal Wash, in dry years. In addition, the Stakeholder Outreach Plan was updated to include opportunities for continued stakeholder engagement.

Commitments of the GSP include Management Actions to set up the infrastructure process to collect the data required by the DWR, and monitor groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and subsidence, and to act on that data if the minimum threshold is triggered. Future projects include areas where there are data gaps, including a survey of private well locations and conditions, and evaluation of groundwater anomalies.

Vice-Chairperson Casillas commended the team on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and commented that she was glad this was done and was on schedule. Chairperson Rodriguez commented that the comments from the Groundwater Leadership Forum were helpful and the response was appropriate, well-reasoned and provided clarity. He opined that the GSP is a strong document and relayed appreciation for efforts to develop it.

Hearing no further comments from the Board, staff or public, Chairman Rodriguez closed the hearing and called for a motion.

ACTION: Vice-Chairperson Casillas made a motion, Director Williams seconded, and the motion carried unanimously to:

1. Adopt the Resolution Approving the Bedford-Coldwater Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

4. ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Harris referenced Page 80 of the meeting packet, listing additional tasks completed between October 1, 2021 and November 8, 2021. Page 84 of the meeting packet included future work scheduled, which includes the next annual reporting the DWR in April. Clarifying for Chairman Rodriguez, Mr. Harris reported that the monitoring well for the number two site is scheduled for mobilization on December 7, 2021 and the other monitoring well will mobilize on January 3, 2022. Due to the challenges encountered, an extension of the grant will be requested so we can make sure that well is included in the grant reimbursement. Chairman Rodriguez opined that we have a track record of taking actions and the delays should be understandable.

In terms of Grant Administration, we have not met our contribution and will work on restructuring that. We have met our local contribution for GSP development but may be under budget in that category because Todd Groundwater completed the work under budget. Stakeholder engagement has exceeded the budget, and funds will need to be added to that category. In construction and implementation, we have not yet met our local contribution, however Mr. Harris estimated that we would likely meet that by the next reporting period. That category was originally underbudgeted and will need to be adjusted.

5. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Mr. O'Neill reported that efforts continue to keep expenses to a minimum. Recent work included preparation of information regarding AB361 and coordination of the agenda for the meeting packet.


6. COMMENTS OF BOARD

Director Williams wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and relayed appreciation for a job well done. Chairman Rodriguez echoed appreciation for the hard work.

7. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the November 18, 2021, Regular meeting of the Bedford-Coldwater Groundwater Sustainability Authority was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.


ATTEST:



Jacquie Casillas, Vice-Chairperson

Date: 7/13/2022

APPROVED:



Paul Rodriguez, Chairman

Date: 2/24/22