

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

**February 16, 2023**

**Board Present**

Jacque Casillas, City of Corona  
Jack T. Ferguson, EVMWD

**Staff Present**

Greg Thomas, EVMWD  
Jeff Pape, TVWD  
Alex Lemieux, Aleshire & Wynder, LLP  
Tom Moody, City of Corona  
Margie Armstrong, EVMWD  
Christy Gonzalez, EVMWD  
Terese Quintanar, EVMWD  
Michael Cruikshank, Water Systems Consulting  
Katie Hockett, City of Corona  
Jennifer Jacobs, Rincon  
Kieran Brtalik, Rincon  
Corrine Nikolic, EVMWD  
Scott Thompson, EVMWD

**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 Chairperson Casillas at 4:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**– There were none. Opportunity for public comment was provided to attendees for the entire duration of the meeting.

**1. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTINUANCE OF REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS (Resolution No. 23-01)**

Chairperson Casillas explained that this is a reoccurring resolution to be acted upon, and that this would be the last time for consideration of adoption as the Governor's Emergency Order is set to expire February 28, 2023.

**ACTION:** Director Ferguson made a motion, Chairperson Casillas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously to Adopt Resolution No. 23-01.

## 2. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. **Approval of Minutes of the August 18, 2022 Regular Meeting**
- B. **Financial Statement**
- C. **Ratification of Demands**
- D. **Outside Contract Summary Report**

Chairperson Casillas commented on Consent Calendar item 2.B, saying that some expenses are less than anticipated, and asked for an explanation of the ACWA membership dues.

Ms. Armstrong responded that the BCGSA is insured by the Association of California Water Agencies- Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA-JPIA). In order to obtain insurance through ACWA-JPIA, membership with ACWA is required. Ms. Armstrong also responded that some of the expenses look low due to the timing of payment of GSP costs, as there is often a lag, but there was one project completed that was a smaller effort than originally anticipated.

**ACTION:** Chairperson Casillas made a motion, Director Ferguson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar.

## 3. BUSINESS CALENDAR

- A. **Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Rincon Consultants, Inc. for the Investigation of Groundwater Surface Water Interactions at Temescal Wash (MO #44)**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), effective January 1, 2015, was enacted in California to regulate and sustainably manage groundwater basins throughout the state. SGMA provides a framework to guide local public agencies and newly created Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the management of their underlying groundwater basins, especially those considered critically affected as defined by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The Bedford-Coldwater Groundwater Sustainability Authority (BCGSA) prepared a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to maintain long-term groundwater sustainability in the Bedford-Coldwater Groundwater Subbasin

The Bedford-Coldwater GSP was prepared from June 2018 through December 2021 with active outreach and public participation throughout the process. The GSP was adopted by BCGSA on December 18, 2021, and was submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in January 2022. The 2022 GSP provides the basic information, analytical tools, and projects and management actions for continued groundwater management, guided by SGMA and by locally defined sustainability goals, objectives, and metrics.

There are number of components that are required in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation, including monitoring of groundwater levels, groundwater extractions, total water (import, surface water, and groundwater) use, change in groundwater storage, groundwater quality, subsidence, and changes in surface flow resulting from groundwater extraction in the basin. This investigation corresponds directly to Project 1 – Investigate Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction at Temescal Wash, listed in Chapter 8, Projects and Management Actions, in the GSP.

The purpose of this study is to reduce uncertainty regarding the riparian habitat and ultimately to improve the GSP's management threshold and protect groundwater-dependent ecosystems. This project will be initiated in two phases: an initial feasibility study and permitting review, and a second phase of installation of monitoring facilities and on-going vegetation and shallow groundwater monitoring. An outcome of the project's initial phase is identifying appropriate locations and associated permitting requirements for monitoring wells, drive points, or piezometers along Temescal Wash. The work will result in recommendations for future riparian monitoring protocols and permitting requirements for the installation of piezometers or drive points close to the wash itself. The second phase of the project is dependent on the result of the initial phase and will be contracted separately.

On November 9, 2022, BCGSA solicited proposals for the investigation of groundwater/surface water interactions at Temescal Wash. Two proposals were received on December 9, 2022. A review panel was established to evaluate the proposals. Based on firm qualifications, experience, and project understanding, the panel concluded that Rincon Consultants, Inc. is the most qualified consultant. Tasks and deliverables are well defined. Phased approach taken. Any changes need to be approved by the Board.

After careful review, staff recommended award of a Professional Services Agreement with Rincon, Inc. in the amount of \$153,434. The PSA includes the Optional Task 8 – Develop Refined Topographic Data and Optional Task 11 – Monitoring Designs and Bid Packages. This item has been incorporated in the FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 Budget.

**ACTION:** Chairperson Casillas made a motion, Director Ferguson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously to approve:

1. Approve a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Rincon Consultants, Inc. for the Investigation of Groundwater/Surface water Interactions at Temescal Wash with Rincon Consultants Inc. in the amount of \$152,434; and
2. Authorize the Deputy Treasurer to execute the appropriate documents on behalf of the Authority.

**B. Approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Service Agreement with Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (MO# 45)**

On October 1, 2017, the Board approved a Services Agreement with Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) for services related to the administration of the JPA.

The first amendment to the Services Agreement was approved by the Board on May 16, 2019, for clarification of insurance information.

The scope of work contained in the original agreement includes administrative and financial services. Administrative services include tasks associated with Board meetings, public records request, and records management. Financial services include tasks such as financial statement preparation, reconciliations, and audits. At that time, it was envisioned that all other tasks will be done by the consulting Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Administrator.

Over time, it became apparent that coordination with and oversight of the GSP administrator, as well as other consultants, is necessary. Additionally, EVMWD negotiates and administers all JPA contracts. Due to the added scope of services, EVMWD has proposed an increase in the monthly service fee to cover their cost of providing these services, to be implemented over two years. The first increase of \$1,000 per month is proposed to be effective January 2023, with a second increase of \$1,000 per month effective in January 2024.

The amendment also proposes to a five-year extension, with subsequent automatic five-year extensions that can be terminated by either party with a 180 days' written notice. This amendment increases the JPA administration cost by \$6,000 in FY 2022-23 and \$12,000 in FY 2023-24. There are sufficient reserves available to cover the initial increase. The additional increase has been incorporated in the FY 2023-24 Budget

Staff recommended that the Board approve Amendment No. 2 to the Services Agreement with Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District for JPA administration services.

**ACTION:** Chairperson Casillas made a motion, Director Ferguson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously to approve:

1. Approve Amendment No. 2 to Service Agreement with Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District for Joint Powers Authority (JPA) administration services.

**4. Administrator's Update**

Mr. Cruikshank provided highlights on information provided in the meeting packet in the form of the Grant Progress Report. He highlighted work on the grant extension with DWR to extend the end of the grant period from March 31, 2023 to June 30, 2023 to

enable the Authority to spend the full grant amount. This way, the Second Annual Report will also be included. He also reported on the data collection effort in preparation for associated maps, figures, and tables for the Second Annual Report. This information will be shared at the May Board meeting. He shared that there is good news concerning water levels, and that levels across the basin have increased 5-20 feet, depending on the location within the basin. He concluded with reporting that the GSA completed a response letter to the County, associated with the Executive Order associated with Goco Hospitality's well application, which will flow through the normal procedure with the County.

**5. Legal Counsel Report**

Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Lemieux did not provide any updates.

**6. Comments of the Board**


Chairperson Casillas welcomed Director Ferguson to the Board.

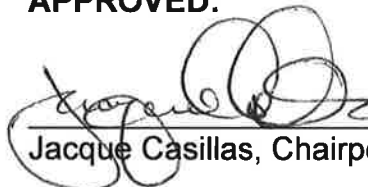
**7. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the February 16, 2023, Regular meeting of the Bedford-Coldwater Groundwater Sustainability Authority was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack T. Ferguson, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacque Casillas, Chairperson

Date: 5/18/2023

Date: 5/18/23