

Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Monday, October 11, 2021

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, CA 95695

NOTE: This meeting is being agendized to allow Board Members, staff, and the public to participate in the meeting via teleconference, pursuant to [AB 361 \(Government Code section 54953\(e\)\)](#).

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NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Public documents relating to any open session item listed on this agenda that are distributed to all or most of the members of the Board of Directors less than 72 hours before the meeting are available for public inspection in the customer service area of the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency's Administrative Office at 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland 95695.

In compliance with the Americans with Disability Act, if you have a disability and need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting please contact YSGA office at (530) 662-3211. Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

All items on the agenda will be open for the public comment before final action is taken. Speakers are requested to restrict comments to the item as it appears on the agenda and stay within a three-minute time limit. The Chair has the discretion of limiting the total time for an item.

- 3:00 1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
- 3:05 2. CONSIDERATION: AUTHORIZE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY, page 3**
- 3:10 3. ADDING ITEMS TO THE POSTED AGENDA** – In order to add an agenda item, it must fit into one of the following categories: a) A majority determination that an emergency (as designed by the Brown Act) exists; or b) A 4/5ths determination that the need to take action arose subsequent to the agenda being posted.
- 3:15 4. PUBLIC FORUM** – The Public may address the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Board of Directors on any item of interest not appearing on the agenda that is within the subject matter of the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency.

- 3:20 5. CONSIDERATION: AUTHORIZE FUNDING THE BUCKEYE CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000, page 4**
- 3:25 6. CONSIDERATION: FORMATION OF YSGA DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE, pages 5-8**
- 3:55 7. NEXT REGULAR MEETING – Monday, November 15, 2021**
- 4:00 8. ADJOURNMENT**

Consideration of items not on the posted agenda, items in the following categories: 1) majority determination that an emergency (as defined by the Brown Act) exists; or 2) a 4/5ths determination that the need to take action arose subsequent to posting of the agenda. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing agenda was posted by October 7, 2021 and made available to the public during normal business hours at the following locations: YSGA's office at 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland 95695.

Kristin Sicke, Executive Officer

**Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Board of Directors
Meeting Agenda Report**

MEETING DATE: October 11, 2021

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

SUBJECT: Consideration: Authorize Teleconference Meetings as a Result of the COVID-19 Emergency

INITIATED OR BOARD

INFORMATION

REQUESTED BY: STAFF

ACTION: MOTION

OTHER _____

RESOLUTION

ATTACHMENT YES NO

BACKGROUND

The Yolo County Health Officer has recommended that local government boards, commissions, and councils continue to meet remotely given the continued threat of COVID-19. Assembly Bill 361 passed in September, which allows virtual board meetings to continue until January 1, 2024.

In order to meet remotely, government agencies must make findings every 30 days that the existing state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet in person, or state officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Board 1) find that, as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees, and 2) hold meetings by teleconference as authorized by subdivision (e)(1)(C) of Section 54953 of the Government Code.

**Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Board of Directors
Meeting Agenda Report**

MEETING DATE: October 11, 2021

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

SUBJECT: Consideration: Authorize Funding the Buckeye Creek Recharge Project in the Amount of \$10,000

INITIATED OR BOARD

INFORMATION

REQUESTED BY: STAFF

ACTION: MOTION

OTHER _____

RESOLUTION

ATTACHMENT YES NO

BACKGROUND

As discussed at the September 20 Regular Board meeting, the Dunnigan Water District is currently considering a groundwater recharge project in the North Yolo Management Area, known as the **Buckeye Creek Recharge Project** (Project). The Project will obtain a 180-day Temporary Diversion Permit from the State Water Board to divert water via the Tehama Colusa Canal through a dewatering gate to convey diversion flows in Buckeye Creek for groundwater recharge (see the Project description attached). The Project is considered a pilot project that will determine feasibility on a larger scale, and is included in the [draft Yolo Subbasin GSP](#).

Dunnigan Water District requested the YSGA serve as the water right applicant in the State Water Board’s temporary permitting process. At the September 20 Regular Board meeting, Bill Vanderwaal provided a brief presentation of the Project concept and the next steps involved, and the YSGA approved serving as the water right applicant in the temporary permitting process. As the Directors discussed the Project with Vanderwaal at the September 20 Regular Board meeting, there was a request for the YSGA to provide administrative funding to support and facilitate project development as it was clear that a benefit to the entire subbasin would be realized in exploring and constructing the project concept. A motion was made and seconded, and the Directors voted on providing \$10,000 of administrative funding towards the Project; however, there was some concern that the item had not been properly agendized in the Board package.

The item is formally coming back to the YSGA Board of Directors for proper consideration of funding the development of the Buckeye Creek Recharge Project in the amount of \$10,000. Reimbursement opportunities will also be investigated as part of this process.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board authorize funding the Buckeye Creek Recharge Project in the amount of \$10,000.

Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Board of Directors
Meeting Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: October 11, 2021

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

SUBJECT: Consideration: Formation of YSGA Ad-Hoc Drought Contingency Planning Committee

INITIATED OR BOARD
REQUESTED BY: STAFF
 OTHER _____

INFORMATION
 ACTION: MOTION
 RESOLUTION

ATTACHMENT YES NO

BACKGROUND

On July 27, August 31, and September 28, Executive Officer Sicke presented drought conditions to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors along with County staff, Resources Manager Elisa Sabatini and OES Manager Dana Carey. The Yolo County Board of Supervisors has requested monthly updates from the YSGA on groundwater levels and relevant data that would assist the Board of Supervisors in being responsive and proactive to drought issues. As of October 7, 2021 21 domestic wells have been reported to Yolo County OES and confirmed by YSGA staff to have gone dry during the 2021 drought.

At the September 2 Working Group meeting, members discussed the release of the draft Yolo Subbasin GSP and the responses and feedback received at the public workshops. Viewed in the current context of the drought, the GSP will likely need to include a preface that manages expectations on what the GSP is meant to accomplish and whether near-term solutions for drought mitigation can be accomplished (as an example, see [Colusa Groundwater Authority's Preface](#)). At the September 8 Executive Committee meeting, the Committee discussed the formation of an Ad-Hoc Drought Contingency Planning Committee to *1) develop local planning considerations for drought-related actions (in the event there is insufficient rainfall this winter), and 2) facilitate improved coordination activities between the YSGA and County of Yolo in implementing the Yolo Subbasin GSP.*

At the September 20 Regular Board meeting, the Executive Committee's recommendation to form the ad-hoc Drought Contingency Planning Committee (Committee) was presented to the Board. Directors requested additional information on proposed Committee members and details of the intent of the Committee.

YSGA's MISSION

The YSGA was formed to serve a coordinating and administrative role and serve as a dynamic, flexible, cost-effective, and collegial organization that ensures compliance with SGMA in the Subbasin without limiting members agencies' rights or authority over its own water supply matters. The YSGA can exercise all powers granted to a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) under SGMA, including adopting rules, policies, bylaws, regulations, and procedures related to the purposes of the YSGA.

The YSGA's Yolo Subbasin GSP is meant to be a dynamic, living document. Annual reports and 5-year plan updates will be based on the YSGA's active, robust groundwater monitoring network to ensure that the Subbasin and GSP are adaptively managed. Project implementation will continue to be encouraged at all stages of Plan implementation; however, there may be a need for the YSGA to consider and incorporate more restrictive measures as management actions in the Plan to ensure long-term sustainability.

As discussed in the YSGA JPA, "If groundwater pumping within a Management Area exceeds such area's sustainable yield, or an undesirable result exists, as defined in the Yolo Subbasin GSP, the Member or Affiliated Party or group of Members and Affiliated Parties with groundwater management responsibility over such area shall develop and implement a plan to achieve sustainability or eliminate the undesirable result within that area."

COMMITTEE INTENT

As part of implementing the Yolo Subbasin GSP (adoption expected December 2021/January 2022), the Committee would advise the Executive Officer and the Board of Directors concerning local planning strategies, appropriate management actions for drought conditions, and coordination with Yolo County Board of Supervisors for management of groundwater resources during drought. The Committee would advise and assist the Executive Officer to identify available resources to mitigate drought impacts and implement sustainability projects. The Committee would investigate whether restrictive measures may be necessary for effective groundwater management, and all recommendations concerning restrictions or controls on groundwater use would be presented to the YSGA Board of Directors for consideration and action.

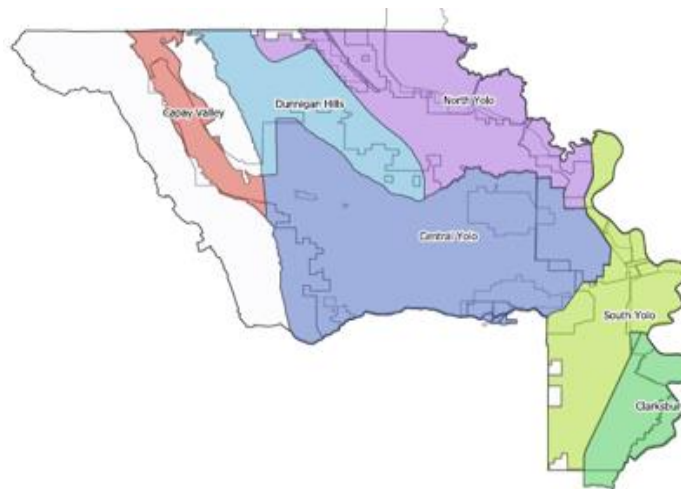
The [draft Yolo Subbasin GSP](#) currently has a list of 12 Management Actions and 75 Projects for implementation through 2042 to ensure groundwater sustainability. By nature, the majority of the Management Actions are not intended to mitigate the current 2021 drought; however, Management Action 12 (Coordinated Response to Minimum Threshold Exceedances) and Management Action 7 (Domestic Well Impact Mitigation Program) are two potential actions that can be expanded or enhanced to ensure proper measures are in place to avoid an undesirable result or minimum threshold exceedance in the event that the drought conditions continue into 2022.

Additionally, Management Action 10 (Coordination Efforts with Land Use Planning Entities) is important to initiate in the short-term assuring local groundwater experts (member agencies of the YSGA) are assisting land use planning entities in making responsible land use decisions that incorporate water resource considerations. Forming the Committee would fulfill one of the goals of the YSGA: **to serve as the local groundwater experts for the Subbasin and County.**

PROPOSED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

At the September 20 Regular Board meeting, Directors requested the Committee be comprised of equal representation by Management Area. The Committee is limited to 14 members since the majority of members constitutes a quorum. A list of proposed Committee members is provided below for the Board’s consideration and approval. *(Please note: entities in Clarksburg Management Area did not feel inclined to participate in the ad-hoc Drought Contingency Planning Committee and Dunnigan Hills Management Area is primarily a “grey area”.)*

- YSGA Chair Roger Cornwell, Reclamation District 787 (North Yolo Management Area)
- City of Winters (Central Yolo Management Area)
- Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company (North and South Yolo Management Areas)
- Dunnigan Water District (North Yolo Management Area)
- Environmental Representative – Ann Brice (Yolo Subbasin)
- Madison Community Service District (Central Yolo Management Area)
- Reclamation District 1600 (South Yolo Management Area)
- Rumsey Water Users Association (Capay Valley Management Area)
- University of California, Davis (Central Yolo Management Area)
- Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (Capay Valley Management Area)
- Yolo County (Yolo Subbasin)
- Yolo County Farm Bureau (Yolo Subbasin)
- Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (Capay Valley, Central Yolo, North Yolo, South Yolo, and Dunnigan Hills Management Areas)



RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Committee recommends the YSGA form an Ad-Hoc Drought Contingency Planning Committee to discuss YSGA's near-term actions that can assist with drought planning in the event there is insufficient rainfall this winter.