



Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EPCGSA)
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Illy Lodge at Illy Sunnyslope Farms located at 3385 Truesdale Rd., Shandon, CA 93461

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:00AM by Hilary Graves.

Directors Roll Call:

Dana Merrill – absent (joins in person at 9:14AM)
Lee Nesbitt - present
Jerry Reaugh – present
Hilary Graves – present
Ryan Scott - present

Others present:

Alan Doud
Guests (in person and by teleconference)

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Peck (guest) asked whether the GSAs are supporting the Rate Study to date as the numbers may indicated prohibitively expensive rates. Willy Cunha (SSJWD/GSA) responded that everyone is supporting the eventual administrative costs to be as cost-effective as possible. Jerry Reaugh pointed out that the Rate Study will return the maximum suggested rates for the Prop 218 vote to consider, but that the actual rates levied could be substantially lower.

ITEM 3: JOINT MEETING WITH SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT/SHANDON-SAN JUAN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY AND ESTRELLA-EL POMAR-CRESTON WATER DISTRICT/ESTRELLA-EL POMAR-CRESTON GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 5-PARTY JOINT OWNERS AGREEMENT DATED FEBRUARY 3, 2025. THIS IS A MULTIAGENCY MEETING PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954(B)(3).

Willy Cunha opened the discussion with a reminder that the 4-Party Agreement (already approved by EPCWD/GSA) will become effective if San Miguel Community Services District decides to drop out of the eventual JPA. There have been a few changes to the 5-Party Agreement since the February 3, 2025 version – are they acceptable? The changes were primarily corrections to wording and clarifications that bring the Agreement into alignment with the stated intent, and don't substantially modify the Agreement according to Alan Doud. He indicated that there is no procedural reason to revisit the 4-Party Agreement which includes the same changes. SSJWD/GSA moved to approve both versions of the Agreement and passed the motion. Hilary Graves indicated that after reviewing the 5-Party Agreement since the last EPCWD/GSA meeting, her conclusion is that the Board should approve the agreement. There was clarification that in the event that SMCS D chooses not to sign the 5-Party Agreement, the 4-Party (if approved by all four agencies) would be the

agreement going forward as there is an automatic rescission clause in the 5-Party Agreement, preventing two fully executed agreements coexisting. There was a discussion of having flexibility in the March 4, 2025 date to have all parties sign one/both of the agreements and the general consensus of both districts' Boards was that yes, there could be some flexibility.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 5-PARTY JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT DATED FEBRUARY 3, 2025 AND INCLUDING THE CHANGES DISCUSSED made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

- Dana Merrill – yes
- Hilary Graves – yes
- Jerry Reaugh – yes
- Lee Nesbitt – yes
- Ryan Scott – yes

Motion passed 5-0.

There was an open discussion following the vote with questions asked and answered regarding what happens to SMCS D's constituents in the event they cease to be a GSA, or go it alone? County would likely be the default representative for those constituents. Are there any more changes coming to the JPAs? None that Alan Doud is aware of. How long to be flexible in the March 4, 2025 deadline for GSAs to sign one/both of the JPA(s)? One Board member suggested March 31, 2025 while others suggested a longer timeframe. No consensus reached on a firm date.

ITEM 4: NEW BUSINESS

No new business presented.

ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING – MARCH 12, 2025

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Dana Merrill, voice vote, motion passed 5-0.
Meeting adjourned at 9:41AM

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:

Dana Merrill, President

Date