Semitropic Water Storage District
Semitropic Groundwater Banking Project
Monitoring Committee

Buena Vista Water Storage District
North Kern Water Storage District
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District

Semitropic Water Storage District
Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District
Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District

July 21, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.
Semitropic Water Storage District Board Room

Draft Minutes

Meeting Attendance – A copy of the sign-in sheet is attached to these minutes. In particular, attendees included the following:

Garth Hall, Santa Clara Valley WD
Melih Ozbilgin, Santa Clara Valley WD
Andrew Bell, Buena Vista WSD
Isela Medina, Semitropic WSD
Ken Schmidt, Kenneth D. Schmidt and Associates
Ram Venkatesan, North Kern WSD
Ron Eid, GEI Consultants, Inc.
Jeff Kenney, Semitropic WSD
Doug Gosling

By telephone:

Jon Reiter, Poso Creek LLC
Sara Maatta, Alameda County WD
Doug Chun, Alameda County WD
Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard

The meeting notes which follow are numbered to correspond with the Meeting Agenda (copy attached). The referenced handouts were distributed via e-mail on July 19, 2016.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Isela Medina at the offices of the Semitropic Water Storage District.

2. The Minutes for the last committee meeting on April 7, 2016 were distributed prior to the meeting via e-mail. No comments were noted.

3a. Semitropic began the year in a recovery mode and has since shifted to a storage mode. Requests for storage during 2016 total about 33,000 acre-feet, of which

about two-thirds has already been stored. The requests for storage were made by Alameda, Santa Clara, and Zone 7.

3b. 2016 recovery operations commenced in March and were terminated in May (as a result of an improved water supply outlook). About 10,800 acre-feet were returned by direct pumpback to the Aqueduct and another 9,300 acre-feet were returned by entitlement exchange. An updated history of water banking activity was provided (in both tabular and chart formats).

4a. Improvements have been completed which increase the reverse-flow pumping capacity by about 13,000 acre-feet per year. Pumping equipment has been installed on four "shallow" wells located in Semitropic's Pond-Poso Spreading Grounds and procurement and installation of pumping equipment is continuing for the remaining wells which have been drilled. In a pilot program, equipment has been installed on 20 of the approximately 440 recovery wells (connected to the District's system) which will monitor and report power and energy use. These improvements are intended to greatly reduce the time and effort currently required to reconcile these data and invoice banking partners for recovery operations. If successful, this program will be continued.

5a. Semitropic collected Spring 2016 groundwater-level measurements in February and the data have been provided to Ken Schmidt. With regard to Fall 2016 measurements, Ken Schmidt suggested that it would be appropriate to take measurements in late October or early November and that the timing should be coordinated with neighboring districts.

5b. Water-level hydrographs from Semitropic's monitor wells, updated through May 2016, were made available (via e-mail) and reviewed. Ken Schmidt noted that the long-term hydrograph for monitor well "S2" should extend back to the mid-1990s. It was noted that Semitropic recently constructed a supply well ("PP1041") and it has been equipped with a water-level sensor. With regard to 26S/23E-15A1, it was noted that this monitor well is dry. There was a question regarding any concerns related to declining groundwater levels. Obvious concerns include increased pumping costs, declining production, and well construction limitations. It was explained that the Groundwater Rule depends on a comparison of with- and without-project water levels and that the declining water levels associated with drought conditions was on both sides of that comparison. Finally, it was reported that Ken Schmidt was in the process of reviewing the monitoring network with the objective of identifying any data gaps. It is anticipated that any gaps would likely be addressed with existing supply wells (either active or inactive).

5c. With the objective of sampling about one-third of the wells which are used for pumpback each year, about 70 wells have been sampled so far in 2016. One-third of the recovery wells amounts to about 145 wells. In response to a question

regarding Cr^{+6}, Ken Schmidt observed that the concentrations of arsenic and Cr^{+6} tend to be very similar in groundwater in the west part of Semitropic.

5d. It was reported that manual observations have indicated subsidence of about 0.5 inches from December 2015 to June 2016. Ken Schmidt noted that there is a "continuous" record of land surface movement at or near the Wasco Airport and suggested that this record be periodically collected.

6a. Ken Schmidt reported that he has everything necessary to complete the 2009-2010 biennial monitoring report and that it should be ready to circulate in about two weeks.

6b. It is planned to prepare a four-year report (2011 through 2014) in an effort to catch up. In this regard, Ken noted that the water-level maps have been prepared and the water quality maps are in progress. Ken will identify what is needed from each district to prepare this four-year report.

7. It was noted that Southern San Joaquin MUD is in the process of being formally integrated into the Poso Creek RWMG.

8. A Treasurer's Report through June 30, 2016 was made available. It was noted that each district should expect to see an invoice in the mail.

9. None.

10. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be in November; however, a date was not set. A date will be set and a notice will be sent out.

11. The meeting was adjourned by about 11:00 a.m.

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