

**MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

August 2, 2022 – 3:00 p.m.

This Committee Meeting was held remotely with no physical location due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Governors Executive Order N-29-20.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Lane, Blake Wilbur, Eric Correia, Richard Garcia, Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Lee Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Soapy Mulholland, Jessi Snyder, Max Storms

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: James Fisher

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Andrew Hart, Dave Van Groningen, Logan Roberson Hueker (Sequoia Riverlands Trust), Johnny Gailey (Delta View Water Association), Derrik Williams

1. CALL TO REGULAR ORDER

The meeting was opened by Chairman Wilbur at 3:04 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Wilbur called for comments from any members of the public present at the meeting. None were forthcoming.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion for approval was motioned by Committee Member Heuvel and seconded by Committee Member Garcia approving the June 2022 minutes.

4. MKGSA GSP

a. **GSP Review - Update**

i. *DWR Determination and Evaluation and Kaweah Subbasin GSP Technical Work Update*

Fisher provided the update. Significant changes to GSP covered last meeting were reviewed. The first amended version of the GSP was submitted on July 20th.

MKGSA GSP Redlines. Redlines were placed on MKGSA Website on July 7th for public review. Comments received were in support of the 90% protection standard. Other significant revisions were made in the areas of the Well Mitigation Program and Subsidence Interim Milestones. A workshop summarizing all major revisions in the amendment has been posted online.

b. **MKGSA Groundwater Allocation and Pumping Cap Proposal – Emergency Order Review Update**

Fisher provided an update on LandIQ operations. Truthing expansion and related calibration of data is currently being carried out by LandIQ. The focus has shifted to

calibration on non-irrigated parcels this previous year. Calibrated data for fallow fields will be provided at the end of the current water year.

i. *Fallow field recommendation* Fisher provided the report. Emergency Ordinance in place currently accepts LandIQ values “as is” for fallow fields. Data on TID recharge basins that did not receive any surface water for 2020-2021 were presented, displaying raw ET values for 2020-2021. Currently these values are higher than the annual rainfall, pointing to a risk of overcharging land owners with fallow fields. Recommendations offered by Fisher for a fallow field policy were as follows:

- *Option 1: Zero out fallow fields*
- *Option 2: Leave numbers “as is” in LandIQ*
- *Option 3: Having a fixed baseline number*
- *Option 4: Accepting numbers “as is”, but having a cap.*

The motion for approval of accepting and presenting *Option 1* to the board was motioned by Committee Member Lee Johnson and seconded by Committee Member Heuvel.

ii. *Dairy operation approach* Fisher provided the report. ET data cannot be appropriately used for dairy footprints. The proposed solution is to set the groundwater consumption at 0.5 AF/acre for all dairies. Future steps would be to update the dairy model as a 5-year study on the issue continues. The motion for approval of accepting and presenting the *Dairy Operation Approach* to the board was motioned by Committee Member Huevel and seconded by Committee Member Correia.

iii. *Water Dashboard Update* Fisher provided the report. Two notices went out to land owners regarding Water Dashboard operations. Dashboard open enrollment began on July 15th. Registration events are going to be held at the Tulare COS campus (more information posted on website). Fisher provided a walkthrough of updated features on the Water Dashboard user interface and provided information regarding concerns currently being addressed.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS, UPDATES, OR OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

a. **Grant Project from Prop 68 Budget Surplus**

Fully funded grant project re-managed from Prop 68 budget surplus. Project consists of installing monitoring wells with water quality pumps and pressure transducers. The plan in place is to collaborate with the Water Quality Coalition so data can be shared between multiple efforts (ILRP, GSP).

6. ADJOURN

Wilbur adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m. The next meeting date is September 6th at 3pm.

Attest: _____
GSA Board Secretary

Advisory Committee Chair