

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

MINUTES

July 18, 2023 – 3:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Correia, Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel, Lee Johnson, Richard Garcia, Jessi Snyder, Joe Machado, Robert Saenz, Aaron Oliver, Jordan Leal, Greg Collins

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda, Diana Zegarra

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Georgina King, Marlene Ferreira, Andrew Hart, Nataly Garcia, Larry Castro, Soapy Mulholland

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Fukuda at 3:00 p.m.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Fukuda called for public comments. None were forthcoming.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Committee Member Geoff Vanden Heuvel motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for both June 6, 2023. Committee Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. **MKGSA GSP**

a. **GSP Review – Update**

- 1. *Well Mitigation Comment Letter* – Tien Tran of the Community Water Center wrote a comment letter to all 3 GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin. Tien listed several comments, including. (1) For the domestic well reliability analysis, the GSP should set the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) based on wells drilled from at least 1990, not the abbreviated time-period used. (2) Water quality SMCs should include more constituents of concern, such as PFOAs and PFOS. (3) There are some data gaps too large to identify potential problems, most notably for water quality. (4) Disadvantaged Communities should be identified using the most recent census dataset published in April 2023. (5) SWRCB’s SAFER funds should not be used for mitigation. SAFER funds are specifically designated for wells where no responsible party has been identified.
- 2. *Department of Water Resources Inadequate Determination of the Revised 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Submitted for the San Joaquin Valley – Kaweah Subbasin Update* – SWRCB meeting on July 21st set the probationary schedule. The Kaweah Subbasin is set to receive a probationary hearing notice sometime in December and intended to have the probationary hearing in March 2024. Mark Larsen and James Fisher delivered a message indicating the SWRCB should use probation as a last resort. Similar comments were made by all other public comments made on behalf of a GSA. The Kaweah Subbasin Technical team will

be working with the SWRCB to address GSP deficiencies before the probationary hearing, which may provide a direct route back to DWR.

3. *Kaweah Subbasin Tech Team Approach on GW Levels and Subsidence* – Ms. King presented the report. King noted that DWR is looking for more justification on why the subsidence SMCs were set the way that they were. Specifically, King and her team are primarily working on updating the map identifying all critical infrastructure likely to be impacted by subsidence, assessing and quantifying subsidence impacts, and determining how groundwater extractions are correlated to subsidence at locations with critical infrastructure.

b. 2023 Allocation Policy Discussion Items

1. *2024 Well Metering Policy Adjustment* – Fr. Fukuda provided the report. The current well metering policy is proposed to be amended as follows: (1) requiring a meter calibration every 2 years (2) making it free to appeal if the request is approved, but charging the grower the cost to review the data if denied (3) requiring a minimum frequency to record well data as monthly and (4) requiring the Tulare County well ID and a written attestation that the well ID only served the APNs described. Committee Member Vanden Heuvel recommended waiving the first year of charges if appeals are denied. The committee concurred. By motion of Committee Member Snyder, and seconded by Committee Member Correia, the motion was carried.
2. *Parcel Verification* – Mr. Fukuda presented a methodology to ensure landowners and renters are correctly claiming parcels in the Water Dashboards. A unique code will be sent to all landowners (tied to the APN), and those codes will be used to allow access to move the parcel in the Dashboard. By motion of Committee Member Correia, and seconded by Committee Member Collins, the motion was approved.

5. KAWEAH SUBBASIN ACTIVITIES

- a. Proposition 68 Implementation Grant – Update
 - i. No update
- b. SGM Round 1 Implementation Grant – Update
 - i. No update
- c. SGM Round 2 Implementation Grant – Update
 - i. No update
- d. Department of Conservation Multi Benefit Land Repurposing Grant – Update
 - i. No update
- e. Kaweah Subbasin Water Marketing Strategy Grant – Update
 - i. No update

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

Mr. Fukuda presented water level plots indicating a significant rebound in monitoring wells.

7. ADJOURN

Mr. Fukuda adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Attest: _____
GSA Board Secretary

Advisory Committee Chair