



MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

MINUTES

March 29, 2023 @ 9:00 AM
MKGSA Board of Directors Meeting

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Martin, David Bixler, Steve Nelsen, Emmanuel Hernandez Soto, Dennis Mederos, and Jose Sigala

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Nelsen

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda, Kathi Artis, Valerie Kincaid, James Fisher, Diana Zegarra, Rhett Anderson, Trisha Whitfield, and Leslie Caviglia

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Dave Van Groningen, Peter Petrelis, Zachary Faria, Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Jasmine Rivera, Johnny Gailey, Mark Larsen, Matt Klinchuch, Derrick Williams, Tim Leo, Georgina King, and Nicole Bonna.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** –Chair Martin called for public comments. No public comments were forthcoming. Mr. Fukuda asked the Board to take a vote to be able to add Agenda 5.a To Consider and Discuss SV651.
3. **GENERAL BUSINESS**
 - a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on February 14, 2023. By a motion of Director Sophie seconded by Director Bixler and carried by all Directors present, the February 14, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.
 - b. Financial Reports
 - (i) Year-to-Date - Kathi Artis presented the financial statements. By a motion of Director Bixler, seconded by Director Mederos and unanimously carried by all Directors present.
 - c. Legal Counsel Report - V. Kincaid gave a report on Water Bills going to the Legislation, 1337 (Wicks), 646, 389, 460 and Water Right Modernization.

- d. MKGSA Advisory Committee Update - Mr. Fukuda gave an update from the February 2023 Advisory Committee meeting, which was primarily a discussion and refinement of future policies for Rules and Regulations. Mr. Fukuda then reported on DWR Inadequate Determination, and the vacant seats in the Advisory Committee that are out for advertisement.
- e. MKGSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update – Mr. Fukuda gave the update on MKGSA 2022 First Amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan following the inadequate determination. DWR questioned why the Kaweah Subbasin used a subset of wells to determine the Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels. DWR also requested more detail in the mitigation plan and connecting that mitigation plan to undesirable results. Second, DWR requested more clarification on the metrics used and limits of subsidence. The Managers met with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The SWRCB was in no rush to a probation hearing, affording this subbasin time to address concerns prior to a probation notification. The 3 GSA’s in Kaweah established a technical team to collaboratively address the concerns DWR outlined in the determination letter.
- f. MKGSA GSP Implementation Workplan
 - i. Emergency Ordinance to Establish an Extraction Limitation for the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Service Area – Update –
 - 1. Water Year 2022 Invoices – Update Mr. Fisher gave an update on the progress of the Emergency Ordinance. Invoices were sent out to the landowners February 3rd. The review period is until March 3rd allowing growers time to ask questions. The payment date was extended until May 1st due to the high volume of questions from the growers.
 - 2. MKGSA Appeals to Emergency Ordinance – Mr. Fisher provided the update for the Board to consider the process and methodology for individualized changes to invoices. Director Mederos made the motion to approve, Director Cabiglia
 - ii. . Consider Montgomery & Associates Task Order No. 14 – Kaweah Subbasin Water Marketing Strategy Technical Support. Tulare Irrigation District was tasked to administer a grant to develop a Water Marketing Strategy. An 11-member committee representing all beneficial uses of the Kaweah Subbasin were tasked to develop a recommended set of water market policies for all 3 GSAs.Task Order 14 requests time and materials not to exceed \$29,548 for Montgomery & Associates to assist the committee with additional technical analysis to answer some of the Committee’s outstanding questions. The costs are reimbursable and will be covered by the grant. Leslie Caviglia motioned to approve the TO, Director Mederos seconded the motion.
- g. Kaweah Subbasin Coordination – Mr. Fukuda gave the updates.
 - i. Kaweah Subbasin Management Committee – No update.
 - ii. Prop 68 Implementation Grant – TID met with the contractor, agreed to begin construction on the Basin in the fall and wait until the water run ends to complete in-canal work, likely during winter.

- iii.* SGM Implementation Grant Round 1 – No update
- iv.* SGM Implementation Grant Round 2 – No update
- v.* Department of Conservation Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Grant – New consultant working on the project and is progressing much faster.
- vi.* Water Marketing Strategy Grant – Evaluated 3rd party water market software platform, intended to link to the Water Dashboard.
- vii.* Landflex – MKGSA did not receive a grant award, but Fukuda believes next year there may be more opportunities.
- viii.* Kaweah Water Foundation – KWF plan was approved.
- ix.* Kaweah Interbasin Coordination – No update.

4. INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Fukuda presented the report. Fukuda recommended the MKGSA participate in the Kaweah Subbasin Irrigation Event as a sponsor, with \$3,000-\$4,000 per GSA. The goal of this event is GSA outreach & involvement in the community via education on SGMA and irrigation efficiencies. This will be done from presentations on SGMA, local equipment vendors, irrigation strategies, and grant opportunities. Director Mederos motioned to approve the MKGSA as a sponsor, Director Sigala seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

5. LEGISLATION

The board agreed that Fukuda may draft a letter of support for the bill codifying the element in the Governor’s executive order that allows for CEQA exemptions for recharge projects.

6. BOARD/STAFF UPDATES, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS OR OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST

The ACWA Meeting occurs during the regularly scheduled MKGSA Board Meeting in May. Fukuda recommends moving the May Board meeting up one week.

7. CLOSED SESSION

- a. Gov’t Code §54956.9 – Anticipated Litigation: One Case
No action taken in closed session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at 5:15pm. The next scheduled meeting is April 11th, 2023.