



**MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
MEETING MINUTES**

August 08 11, 2023 @ 3:00 PM

**Tulare Irrigation District**  
6826 Ave 240  
Tulare, CA 93274

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Nelsen, David Bixler, Emmanuel Soto, Blake Wilbur, Trisha Whitfield (Alternate) and Dave Martin

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Dennis Mederos (non-voting)

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda, Kathi Artis, Valerie Kincaid, James Fisher, Diana Zegarra, Leslie Caviglia, Rhett Anderson, Derrik William, and Georgina King.

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Amanda Piesch Derby, Andrew Hart, Johnny Gailey, Mark Larsen, Richard Garcia, Allison Tristao, Staci Williams, Stacie Ann Silva, Deanna Jackson, Nicole Bona, Bob Bender

- 1) CALL TO ORDER - Chair Nelsen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- 2) PUBLIC COMMENT – Chair Nelsen called for public comments. None were forthcoming.
- 3) GENERAL BUSINESS
  - a) **Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.** By a motion of Director Bixler, seconded by Director Wilbur and carried by all directors present, the July 11, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.
  - b) **Financial Reports**
    - i) *Financial Statements* – Ms. Artis presented the financial statements. By a motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Wilbur and unanimously carried by all Directors present, the Financial Statements were approved.
    - ii) *Consideration of Engagement Letter with Cuttone & Mastro* – Ms. Artis presented a proposal for audit service fees, not to exceed \$7,000. By a motion of Director Bixler, seconded by Director Martin, and carried by all directors present, the Engagement Letter with Cuttone & Mastro was approved.
  - c) **Legal Counsel Report** –Ms. Kincaid talked about the DWR actions on SGMA compliance. DWR had approved another 13 GSPs, making that 40 GSPs that have been approved, 43 still being reviewed, and 6 inadequate.

- d) **MKGSA Advisory Committee Update** – Mr. Fukuda gave an update on Advisory Committee activities. The Advisory Committee had a meeting on July 18, 2023 focused on an update on GSP technical work being done. The Advisory Committee also discussed several policies that were unanimously approved to be moved to the MKGSA Board of Directors for consideration. Those policies included the Well Monitoring appeal process and a Parcel Verification policy.
- e) **MKGSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update**
- i) *Department of Water Resources Inadequate Determination of the Revised 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Submitted for the San Joaquin Valley – Kaweah Subbasin Update* – Mr. Fukuda gave a report starting with a report on a meeting with the State Water Resources Control Board held on July 27, 2023.
- ii) *Mid-Kaweah GSA Well Mitigation Plan*
1. Consideration of Outreach Plan Extension – Mr. Fukuda gave the update. The Public Comment 60-Day Period ended on August 13, 2023. The MKGSA staff and consultants have been occupied with, GSP Technical Revisions, Advisory Committee onboarding, EO invoicing and policies and, SWRCB meetings and preparation of information. MKGSA staff recommends extending the public comment period to September 15<sup>th</sup> to accommodate a public workshop on August 31<sup>st</sup>. By a motion of Director Bixler, seconded by Director Emmanuel Soto, and carried by all Directors present, the public comment period for the Well Mitigation plan was extended to September 15, 2023.
  2. Consideration of Consultant Services Agreement with Provost and Pritchard for Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Services for Mitigation Plan Public Review. Mr. Fukuda reported that MKGSA staff is seeking assistance in conducting public outreach for the Well Mitigation Plan. By a motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Whitfield, and carried by all Directors present, the Interim General Manager was authorized to sign and execute the Consultant Services Agreement with Provost and Pritchard for Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Services for Mitigation Plan Public Review.
- f) **MKGSA GSP Implementation Workplan**
- i) *Emergency Ordinance to Establish an Extraction Limitation for the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Service Area – Update*
1. *Discussion and Consideration Well Metering Policy* – Mr. Fisher gave a report on the Well Metering Policy. The goal is to review well appeal process in preparation for Rules & Regulations. By a motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Bixler, and carried by all Directors present, the Well Metering Policy was approved.
  2. *Discussion and Consideration of Parcel Verification Policy* – Mr. Fisher gave a report on the Parcel Verification Policy. Mr. Fisher reported that Water Dashboard users were able to create accounts and register parcels without proving they were the rightful landowner or land user. To solve this issue, Mr. Fisher indicated that the MKGSA will be mailing a code to landowners (tied to the APN) that must then either claim the account or provide the rightful

water users access to the account with their permission. By a motion of Director Wilbur, seconded by Director Bixler, and carried by all Directors present the Parcel Verification Policy was approved.

- ii) *Consideration of Purchase of Survey Equipment Partnership with Tulare Irrigation District* – Mr. Fisher reported that the MKGSA and Tulare Irrigation District intended replace Trimble R8 survey equipment with Leica Survey Equipment. By a motion by Director Bixler, second by Director Wilbur and carried by all Directors present, the MKGSA staff was authorized to purchase and cost-share with the Tulare Irrigation District in the purchase of new survey equipment.
- iii) *Consideration of Montgomery and Associates Task Order No. 7 Amendment – Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation Support* – Mr. Fukuda reported that the Task Order No. 7 Amendment with Montgomery and Associates was needed to continue technical work and revisions to the MKGSA GSP. By a motion from Director Martin, seconded by Director Whitfield, and carried all Directors present the Interim General Manager was authorized to sign and execute Task Order No. 7 Amendment.

**g) Kaweah Subbasin Coordination**

- i) *Kaweah Subbasin Management Committee* – No update.
- ii) *Prop 68 Implementation Grant* – No update.
- 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* – Had a workshop on July 20, 2023.
- vi) *Water Marketing Strategy Grant* – Working on scheduling some meetings with the Greater Kaweah and East Kaweah. We are also currently working with the Water Dashboard Team and the Water Marketing Strategy Team to infuse the automated water market in the water dashboard.
- vii) *Kaweah Water Foundation (CVSALTS)* - No update.
- viii) *Kaweah Interbasin Coordination* – No update.

- 4) **INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT** – Mr. Fukuda reported on the California Adaption Forum, which was a panel discussion with River Partners and Stanford University.
- 5) **CALIFORNIA GROUNDWATER COALITION** – Mr. Fukuda reported that the next meeting was to be on August 15, 2023
- 6) **LEGISLATION** – Mr. Fukuda reported that AB 460 and AB 1337 were pulled and moved to 2-year bills. SB 389 is moving through the process, but it allows more SWRCB investigations into water claims. AB 1205 was moved to a “study” bill and requires a report by January 1, 2027. Mr. Fukuda further reported that Water Bond discussions were taking place
- 7) **BOARD/STAFF UPDATES, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS OR OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST** – Nothing to report.
- 8) **CLOSED SESSION**
  - a) Gov’t Code §54956.9 – Anticipated Litigation: One Case

Upon returning from Closed Session, Ms. Kincaid reported that there was no action taken in Closed Session.

- 9) ADJOURNMENT - Chair Nelsen adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting is September 12, 2023.