

**MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN WORKSHOP**

MINUTES

July 6, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

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

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda (Interim General Manager), James Fisher, Trisha Whitfield, Trevor Amarante, Leslie Caviglia, Valerie Kinkaid

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Dave Martin, Greg Collins, Dennis Mederos, Derrik Williams, Howard Stroman, Steve Nelson, Jessi Snyder, Lee Johnson, Sol Flores, Eric Osterling, Mark Larsen, David Bixler, Matt Klinchuch, Chris Hunter, Blae Wilbur, Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Douglas Jackson, Andrew Hart, Richard Garcia, Peter Petrelis, Johnny Gailey, Luis Sanchez, Julie Allen, Eric Correai, Maryse Suppiger, Craig Moyle, Victoria Herмосilla, Mike Lane, Rhett Anderson, Soapy Mulholland

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was opened by Board Chair Dave Martin at 1:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Martin called for public comments. None were forthcoming.

3. MKGSA GSP Review Status

a. Department of Water Resources Incomplete Determination of the 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Submitted for the San Joaquin Valley – Kaweah Subbasin – Update

Fukuda provided the update. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an overview of the approaches to address the 3 deficiencies outlined by DWR’s GSP determination letter, and seek direction from the public, board, and committee at the beginning of the public comment period to incorporate changes into the redlined GSP.

b. Presentation on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Revisions

Mr. Williams provided the update.

DWR identified 3 deficiencies to address.

1. Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
2. Land subsidence
3. Interconnected surface waters (not an MKGSA-specific issues)

1. Chronic lowering of groundwater levels

- Significant and unreasonable is defined as groundwater levels dropping below the bottom of the well.
- The Kaweah Subbasin was divided into hydrologic zones, which were divided into groups with similar hydrogeology, land use, and/or geography.

- Identified beneficial users are 90% of all wells (domestic and agricultural). The more protective of the minimum thresholds and measurable objectives were selected as an SMC, meaning 90% or more of all wells would be protected.
- Surprisingly, the minimum thresholds and measurable objectives were similar or the same for much of the subbasin.
- The undesirable result in the redlined GSP remains the same, 1/3 of wells in the representative monitoring network must stay above set SMCs.

2. Groundwater subsidence

- Subsidence rate: The maximum acceptable rate of annual subsidence is 0.67 ft/yr
- Subsidence extent: The total amount of subsidence was capped at 9 feet until 2040.
- The undesirable result will remain exceeding 1/3 of all monitoring points in all 3 GSAs for both the rate **and** extent.
- The measurable objective after 2040 was recommended to be 0 ft/yr after reaching sustainability. This is likely unrealistic, as studies show residual subsidence would occur even if there were no pumping in the subbasin. However, DWR informed the Kaweah Subbasin no subsidence by 2040 is expected for the subbasin's response to their determination letter.
- Mr. Williams suspects land subsidence could be the governing SMC for groundwater management, as it is the most challenging to meet.

3. Interconnected surface waters

- This only applies to the East- and Greater-Kaweah GSAs
- (SMCs) have been set on the best available data, which is currently limited.
- The Kaweah Subbasin will collect more data and refine interconnected surface water SMCs at a later date.

c. **Schedule for Completion of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Revisions**

We anticipate uploading the redlined GSP revisions by tomorrow (July 7, 2022) on the Mid-Kaweah GSA website. A redlined coordination agreement soon thereafter. Public comment is open from now until July 12, 2022, to give ample time to incorporate comments in the final draft. Public comments will be incorporated into the redlined GSP from July 12-19. Public comments will be accepted beyond July 12, but there are no guarantees there is ample time to incorporate those comments into the redlined GSP. On July 20, 2022 the redlined version of the GSP will be presented for Board consideration, with the completed draft expected by July 25th (due to DWR by July 27th). After submittal to DWR, there will be another 60-day public comment period prior to DWR's final determination letter, which is expected before the end of the year.

4. LEGISLATION

a. **Assembly Bill 2201 – Update***

This bill intended to put a moratorium on new corporate agricultural demands. However, the bill is written in a way that places a moratorium on all new agricultural wells, including replacement wells. Fukuda is worked with a committee to draft and submit a list of suggested amendments to reflect more productive and implementable actions to achieve the primary purpose of the bill.

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

Fukuda said place a temporarily placeholder for July 12th for the regular Board meeting, however this meeting is likely to be cancelled. Fukuda proposed July 20th at 1pm for the next meeting to consider the redlined GSP for approval.

6. ADJOURN

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Attest: _____
GSA Board Secretary

Advisory Committee Chair

DRAFT