

**MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

MINUTES

December 14, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

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: David Bixler, Steve Nelsen, Greg Collins, Dave Martin, Howard Stroman,
Dennis Mederos

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda, Kathi Artis, Trisha Whitfield, Valerie Kincaid,
James Fisher

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Richard Garcia, Blake Wilbur, Gene Kilgore, Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Janessa Iden, Matt Klinchuch, Mark Larsen, Rhett Anderson, David Cox, Johnny Gailey, Kevin, Paul Grenseman

1. CALL TO REGULAR ORDER

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on November 9, 2021. By a motion of Director Mederos, seconded by Director Bixler and carried by all directors present the minutes of the November 9, 2021 regular meeting minutes were approved.

b. Financial Reports*

- i. Financial Statements – Year-to-Date* K. Artis presented the financial statements. By a motion of Director Greg Collins and seconded by Director Dennis Mederos, the financial statement was approved.

c. Legal Counsel Report

Ms. Kincaid provided a report on recent activities of the Department of Water Resources including the recent approval of several groundwater sustainability plans.

d. MKGSA Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Fukuda reported that the MKGSA Advisory Committee meeting in December had been canceled.

e. MKGSA GSP Review Status

Mr. Fukuda reviewed a letter submitted by the State Water Resources Control Board to the Kaweah Subbasin. Mr. Fukuda highlighted several key issues that were noted in the letter that pertained to the Kaweah Subbasin and specifically to the MKGSA. Mr. Fukuda thereupon reported on the California Department of Water Resources Kaweah Subbasin – 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plans letter that was received. He noted that the letter

notified the GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin that there were several deficiencies and that the final evaluation of the GSPs would come no later than January 31, 2022.

Next, Mr. Fukuda presented a spreadsheet summary of the comments/responses from the DWR Evaluation of other GSPs that were evaluated by Montgomery & Associates and potentially had relevance to issues that may be identified in the MKGSA GSP. Mr. Fukuda noted that Montgomery & Associates will be overseeing the development and presentation of a matrix that will categorize the DWR evaluation based on coordination needs, the priority of importance, and the ability to provide modifications or requirements for follow-up evaluation.

f. MKGSA GSP Implementation Workplan

- i. Mr. Fukuda and Mr. Fisher gave an update on Land IQ data noting that growers can now request their evapotranspiration data. Reports were being sent to landowners as they are requested. Mr. Fukuda provided an update on the Groundwater Pumping Cap and noted that a draft ordinance water was being worked on.
- ii. Consider Provost & Pritchard – Water Dashboard Development and Support Services Proposal. Mr. Fukuda reported that this item was no longer required for consideration.
- iii. Consider United Tracking Systems MKGSA Water Dashboard Proposal. Mr. Fukuda reported an update on the Water Dashboard and the need to approve a contract with United Tracking. By motion of Director Bixler, and seconded by Director Collins, United Tracking Systems MKGSA Water Dashboard Proposal was approved.

g. Kaweah Subbasin Coordination

- i. *Kaweah Subbasin Management Committee*
Mr. Fukuda presented a report on the implementation of groundwater caps by the three GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin. He also provided updates on recent discussions on grants and a potential memorandum of understanding with Sequoia Riverlands Trust.
- ii. *Prop 68 Planning Grant*
Mr. Fukuda indicated that EKGSA was requesting a extension.
- iii. *Prop 68 Implementation Grant*
No Update
- iv. *Water Marketing Strategy Grant*
Mr. Fukuda reported that the consultants supporting the effort and the GSA managers had agreed to an approach that includes the legal counsels of each GSA to support the effort and the sharing of costs to have Provost & Pritchard and Montgomery & Associates support the effort.
- v. *Kaweah Water Foundation (CVSALTS)*
Mr. Fukuda reported that the GSAs had met with the Foundation to receive a report on updates by the Foundation.
- vi. *Kaweah Interbasin Coordination*
No updates.

4. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER COLLABORATIVE ACTION PROGRAM – PHASE 1 ACTION PLAN FRAMEWORK

Mr. Fukuda provided a report on the activities of the San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program. He noted that the effort has spent a year identifying the critical issues related to water facing the Central Valley and the solutions that are being developed.

5. STAFF UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND RECEIVE DIRECTION, IF NECESSARY, COVID-19. On September 30th, the resolution to allow public agencies to operate under Brown Act and host remote meetings. Resolution 21-03 allows the MKGSA to extend this expired resolution and continue meeting virtually (modified Brown Act) provided the resolution is renewed every 30 days and if the Statewide Declaration of Emergency is in place. By motion of Director Collins, and seconded by Director Collins the motion was carried to continue meeting remotely.

6. BOARD/STAFF UPDATES, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS OR OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST
No updates.

7. CLOSED SESSION

Gov't Code §54956.9 – Anticipated Litigation: One Case

Upon returning from Closed Session, Ms. Kincaid reported that the MKGSA Board of Directors have appointed an Ad-Hoc Committee to meet with the GKGSA and the EKGSA.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Martin adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm with the next regular meeting scheduled for January 11, 2022.

Attest:

GSA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Chair