



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

January 17, 2023 @ 3:00 PM

Tulare Public Library

491 North M Street

Tulare, CA 93274

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Nelsen, Dennis Mederos, David Bixler, Dave Martin, and Liz Wynn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Blake Wilbur

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda, Valerie Kincaid, James Fisher, Diana Zegarra, Leslie Caviglia, Trisha Whitfield

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Mark Larsen, Eric Correia, Andrew Hart, , John Linney, Phil Mirwald, Georgina King, Richard Garcia, Nataly Escabedo, Geoff Vanden Huevel, and Craig Horning

- 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. Mark Larsen recognized efforts by Kaweah Subbasin.
- 3) GENERAL BUSINESS
 - a) **Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on December 12, 2023.** By a motion of Director Martin seconded by Director Bixler and unanimously carried by all Directors present, the Minutes of the meeting on December 12, 2023, were approved.
 - b) **Financial Reports**
 - i) *Financial Statements* – Year-to-Date - Mr. Fukuda presented the financial statements. By a motion of Director Bixler, seconded by Director Mederos, and unanimously carried by all Directors present, the Financial Statements were approved.
 - c) **Legal Counsel Report** – Ms. Kincaid provided the update. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) held a workshop on December 19, 2023, for subbasins that are in State Intervention. SWRCB revised and pushed back some of the schedule. The three basins are Tulare Lake, Tule and Kaweah, in that order. SWRCB pushed back the hearings, Tulare Lake is set for April 16, 2024, Tule September 2024, and Kaweah November 2024. Also, AB828 was revised, it allows DWR to revise its requirements for GSPs to include GSAs having the responsibility for the human right to water and for protecting managed wetlands and it would limit groundwater sustainability agencies authority over limiting allocations or charging fees to small community systems that have disadvantage communities and wetlands.

- d) MKGSA Advisory Committee Update** – Mr. Fukuda gave the update. On January 9th the Committee met to receive a presentation on Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC's) for groundwater levels. Montgomery and Associates (M&A) presented the Kaweah Subbasin Water Level Core Team Update. The Advisory Committee discussion focused on identifying any critical elements of the approach and MKGSA Advisory Committee Recommendation based on the approach the Committee recommended that the MKGSA Board consider the 6x and 7x approach as recommended by the Kaweah Subbasin Water Level Core Team.
- 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 –*
 - (1) Kaweah Subbasin Technical Team Level Core Team Update – Direction on Coordinated Recommendation for Minimum Threshold Water Level Surface* – Ms. King gave a review of all the steps. Mr. Fukuda gave the review for the various increments, impacts, and potential costs for the associated mitigation. Mr. Fukuda also presented the revenue calculator that identifies the amount of funds collected if the MKGSA continues with the current Emergency Ordinance fees and the current allocation levels. At the current levels, the MKGSA would have approximately \$35,000 collected from WY 2022 and have a cumulative fund of approximately \$1.835 million with revenue from WY 2023. The Groundwater Level Core team has requested that each GSA provide direction to continue to complete the analysis for groundwater levels and move towards completing the SMCs for the upper aquifer, which still includes setting the Measurable Objective (level at which we should arrive at in 2040) and the Interim Milestones (intermediate levels in 2024, 2030, 2035, and 2040). Staff recommends that the Board of Directors provide direction to the Kaweah Subbasin Technical Team Water Level Core Team on using the 6x or 7x Minimum Threshold Water Level Surface. Direction provided by Board of Directors to continue with the work as proposed.
 - ii) Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program* – No update
 - iii) Mid-Kaweah GSA Well Mitigation Plan* – No update
- f) MKGSA GSP Implementation Workplan**
- i) Discussion and Consideration of Amendment to Resolution No. 2023-03 – Resolution of the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Adopting the Version 1.0 Kaweah Water Market Pilot* – Mr. Fukuda gave the presentation. Motion – approve Resolution No. 2024-1 amending Resolution No. 2023-3 Article 3 Part I changing the Pilot Program ending period to March 31, 2024. By a motion of Director Mederos, seconded by Director Wynn and by the following roll call. Ayes: Directors Martin, Bixler, Nelsen, Whitfield, Mederos and Wynn the Board of Directors approved preparation of Resolution No. 2024-01 closing the Pilot Water Market on March 31, 2023.

- 4) INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Fukuda reported he will be speaking on ongoing recharge activities on January 27, 2024, at the Planning and Conservation League at U.C. Davis. On February 13, 2024, he will be speaking on Sustainability Approach. On Feb 26-27 he will be at California Irrigation Institute and on March 28, 2021 he will be at American Society of Civil Engineers.
- 5) CALIFORNIA GROUNDWATER COALITION - No update provided.
- 6) LEGISLATION – No update provided.
- 7) BOARD/STAFF UPDATES, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS OR OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST – No updates provided.
- 8) CLOSED SESSION – the Board of Directors entered Closed Session. Upon returning from Closed Session, Ms. Kincaid reported that there were not actions taken in Closed Session.
- 9) ADJOURNMENT – Chairmen Nelsen adjourned the meeting.

10) CALIFORNIA GROUNDWATER COALITION – No report

11) LEGISLATION – (?)

12) BOARD/STAFF UPDATES, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS OR OTHER TOPICS
OF INTEREST – No Update

13) CLOSED SESSION

a) Gov't Code §54956.9 – Anticipated Litigation: OneCase.

14) ADJOURNMENT - Chair Nelsen adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meetings
February 13, 2023 @ 3:00