



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

July 9, 2024 @ 3:00 PM  
City of Tulare Council Chambers  
491 North M Street  
Tulare, CA 93274

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda, Valerie Kincaid, Kathi Artis, Diana Zegarra, Debbie Burgos, Tim Leo, Leslie Caviglia, Derrik Williams

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Audrey Goddard, Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Doug Jackson, Jasmine Ramirez, Adriana Becerra, James Silva, Johnny Gailey, and Matthew Fienup

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Nelsen called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – Chair Nelsen called for public comments. None were forthcoming.
3. GENERAL BUSINESS
  - a. **Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on May 14, 2024.** By a motion Director Mederos, seconded by Director Bixler, and unanimously carried by all directors present, the May 14, 2024 and June 13, 2024, 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 report as presented was approved.
    - ii. Discussion and Consideration of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 MKGSA Budget. – Mr. Fukuda gave the review of the proposed Fiscal year 2024-2025 MKGSA Budget. By a motion of Director Wilbur, seconded by Director Bixler and unanimously carried by all directors present, the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 MKGSA Budget with the inclusion of \$7,500 for membership in the Water Blueprint was approved.

- c. **Legal Counsel Report.** - V. Kincaid provided the report on ongoing legal activities. Ms. Kincaid noted that DWR is looking closely at the annual reports, the Tulare Lake Subbasin must begin reporting groundwater pumping on June 15, 2024, and that the Kaweah Subbasin hearing has been pushed to January 7, 2024.
- d. **MKGSA Advisory Committee Update** - Mr. Fukuda gave an update on the Advisory Committee updates. The Committee met on June 14, 2024, and July 2, 2024. The MKGSA Advisory Committee reviewed Water Year 2025 allocations and reviewed allocation and costs to ensure mitigation funding. Mr. Fukuda noted that the Advisory Committee had recommended the Water Year 2025 allocation which would be considered later in the agenda.
- e. **MKGSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update**
  - i. State Water Resources Control Board – Kaweah Subbasin Probationary Hearing Draft Staff Report – Mr. Fukuda gave the update. On June 24<sup>th</sup> there was a virtual public workshop hosted by the SWRCB. On June 26<sup>th</sup> the Kaweah Subbasin hosted a SWRCB Tour, June 27<sup>th</sup> the SWRCB held another public workshop and then on June 28<sup>th</sup> the Kaweah Subbasin hosted another SWRCB Tour.
  - ii. Discussion and consideration of Kaweah Subbasin Water Quality and Interconnected Surface Water Technical Team Cost Share Letter Agreement – Mr. Fukuda presented a staff report on the letter agreement. The staff recommends approving the Kaweah Subbasin Water Quality and Interconnected Surface Water Tech Team Cost Share Letter agreement. By a motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Wynn and unanimously carried by all directors present, the Interim General Manager was approved to sign and execute the Kaweah Subbasin Water Quality and Interconnected Surface Water Tech Team Cost Share Letter agreement.
- f. **MKGSA GSP Implementation Workplan**
  - i. Discussion and Consideration of Domestic Well Mitigation Agreement with Self-Help Enterprises – Mr. Fukuda gave the review. MKGSA staff recommends approving the Domestic Well Mitigation Agreement with Self-Help Enterprises. Self Help Enterprises (SHE) will receive claims and provide emergency and interim water. SHE must get written confirmation of long-term solution from MKGSA. By a motion of Director Bixler, seconded by Director Wilbur and unanimously carried by all directors present, the Interim General Manager was directed to sign and execute the Domestic Well Mitigation Agreement with Self-Help Enterprises.
  - ii. Discussion and Consideration of Resolution No. 2024-05 – Water Year 2025 MKGSA Groundwater Allocations – Mr. Fukuda presented a discussion on the available groundwater supplies from prior year recharge activities and the recommendation of the MKGSA Advisory Committee. By a motion of Director Wilbur, seconded by Director Wynn and by the Roll Call, Ayes: Director Mederos, Director Wilbur, Director Nelsen, Director Wynn, Director Bixler and Director Martin

Resolution No. 2024-05 – Water Year 2024 MKGSA Groundwater Allocations was approved.

- iii. Discussion and Consideration of Transactions of the June 14, 2024, Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Version 1.0 Kaweah Water Market Pilot Auction - Mr. Fukuda started the discussion and then Mr. Fienup gave the summary of the results. There were bids to buy 166 AF of groundwater credits at an average price of \$131 per AF, with the highest bid being \$251 per AF. There were offers to sell 258 AF of credits with an average price of \$238 per AF, with the lowest offer at \$180 per AF. A total of 8 AF of groundwater credits were transferred for an average price of \$188.81 per AF with a total of 2 transactions. During the May 24<sup>th</sup> auction a total of 90 AF sold at an average price of \$193.06. If the June 14<sup>th</sup> transfers are approved, a total of 98 AF will have sold at an average price of \$192.74 for the two auctions held during the MKGSA Pilot. With a motion by Director Wynn, seconded by Director Martin, and unanimously carried by all Directors present, the transactions of the June 14, 2024 Water Market Pilot Auction were approved.

**g. Montgomery and Associates Task Orders**

- i. Discussion and Consideration of Task Order 07 Amendment #3 – DWR Response – Amendment #3 includes the cost overruns from Amendment #2 of approximately \$100,000. Also included in Amendment #3 is an estimate of the costs required to revise the MKGSA GSP to address the additional SWRCB items identified in the Kaweah Subbasin Draft Staff Report submitted in May 2024. The estimated costs required to participate in meetings and prepare a final seconded amended GSP in Fall 2024 is an additional \$102,000. Therefore, Task Order 07 Amendment #3 is in the amount of \$202,000.
- ii. Discussion and Consideration of Task Order 09 Amendment #3 – Miscellaneous Technical Support – Amendment #3 includes the cost overruns from Amendment #2 of Approximately \$7,00. Amendment #3 is an estimate of the costs required for ongoing technical issues. Task Order 09 Amendment #3 is in the amount of \$107,000.
- iii. Discussion and Consideration of Task Order 12 Amendment #3 – Kaweah Subbasin Model Documentation – Amendment #3 includes the cost overruns from Amendment #2 of approximately \$65,200. Included in Amendment #3 is an estimate of the costs required to complete the Modeling Report and additional modeling work needed for data requests by other GSAs. M&A has estimated that Task Order 12 Amendment #3 is in the amount of \$255,200. By a motion of Director Wynn, seconded by Director Bixler and unanimously carried by all directors present, the three task orders: Task Order 07 Amendment #3, Task Order 09 Amendment #3 and Task Order 12 Amendment #3 were approved.

4. INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Fukuda gave a report on recent activities he participated in, including the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Okieville Recharge Basin.
5. CALIFORNIA GROUNDWATER COALITION – No Report
6. LEGISLATION – AB 2079 amended. Failed at senate committee. Senate Bill 867 - \$10 Billion Climate Bond. \$3.8 Billion for drinking water and \$1.14 billion to reduce flood risk Discussion and Consideration of Position – Mr. Fukuda led the discussion on AB 828 Connolly (Petaluma). MKGSA Staff recommended an oppose unless amended position. After discussion, by a motion of Director Wilbur, seconded by Director Bixler and unanimously carried by all Directors present, the MKGSA approved an oppose unless amended position on AB828.
7. BOARD/STAFF UPDATES, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS OR OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST – No Report
8. CLOSED SESSION – Upon returning from Closed Session Ms. Kincaid reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.
9. ADJOURNMENT: Next Regular Meeting – August 13, 2024