

**MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

May 9, 2024 – 3:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Machado, Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel, Aaron Oliver, Jordan Leal, Richard Garcia, Robert Saenz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jessi Snyder, Eric Correia, Greg Collins

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda, James Fisher, Diana Zegarra

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Georgina King, Johnny Gailey, Andrew Hart, Jace Leal

1. CALL TO ORDER

In the Chair and Vice Chair's absence, the meeting was called to order by Aaron Fukuda at 3:08 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fukuda called for public comments. None were forthcoming.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Fukuda called for the approval for the April 2, 2024, meeting minutes. Committee Member Machado motioned to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Committee Member Leal. The minutes were approved.

4. MKGSA GSP

- a. **Amended MKGSA Emergency Ordinance** – Fukuda presented the amended Emergency Ordinance. There were five edits/clarifications that needed to be made including: the allocation, the date groundwater allocations are announced (July), carry over credit durability, invoicing frequency, and a standardized deadline for the reservation invoice. Geoff Vanden Heuvel was concerned about water credits that didn't expire, but understood that credits that do expire fuels the "use it or lose it" behavior. Fukuda presented the 8 policy amendments that were already Board approved and were to be included in the amended Emergency Ordinance (EO). By motion of Committee Member Machado, and seconded by Committee Member Leal, the motion was approved.
- b. **Reserve Policy** – Fukuda explained the need for a reserve, including avoiding over-collecting funds, maintaining credit worthiness, and ensuring sufficient funding is available for all obligations. There are three types of reserves proposed: (1) Emergency Reserves in the event of a natural disaster, (2) Groundwater Replenishment Reserves, which are used exclusively to purchase surface water and/or to buy down water credits and (3) Mitigation Cost Reserves, used to carry out the MKGSA Mitigation Plan. Committee Member Machado motioned to approve the Reserve Policy and the motion was seconded by Committee Member Saenz. The reserve policy was approved.

5. MKGSA GSP

a. **MKGSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan – Updates**

Ms. King reviewed the 20 projects and 14 management actions proposed in the updated GSP and updated the committee on the subbasin-wide predictive modeling efforts.

b. **Sustainable Management Criteria – Subsidence / Groundwater Levels**

Perhaps the most significant update for upper aquifer water levels was updating the definition of “undesirable result” in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) which is defined as “If more than 20 RMS wells exceed their minimum threshold in any given year AND more than 30 domestic wells are impacted and require mitigation in any given year OR if a GSA’s annual mitigation costs exceed the available annual mitigation budget for the given year”. Lower aquifer pumping will be managed based on ground subsidence. It is anticipated that much of the lower aquifer pumping will be moved to the upper aquifer to stay above minimum thresholds.

c. **Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program & MKGSA Mitigation Plan**

Ms. King stated approximately 93 wells are at high risk of requiring mitigation between 2023 and 2040 amounting to approximately \$1.55 M annually to the GSA.

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

Fukuda motioned for any updates or reports. None were forthcoming.

7. ADJOURN

Fukuda adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2024.

Attest: _____

GSA Board Secretary

Advisory Committee Chair