



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

September 10, 2024 @ 3:00 PM
City of Tulare Council Chambers
491 North M Street
Tulare, CA 93274

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda, Valerie Kincaid, Kathi Artis, Diana Zegarra, Debbie Burgos, Anna Rioux, Trisha Whitfield, Georgina King, Nick Bartsch

MKGSA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Phil Mirwald, Richard Garcia, Greg Collins, Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Eric Correia, Jordan Leal, Robert Saenz

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Justin Murray, Bob Bender, Doug Jackson, Andrew Hard, Amanda Peisch-Derby, Richard Garcia, Andriana Becerra (SHE), Mark Larsen, Peter Petralis, Dave Van Groningen, Megan Harper

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER COMBINED WORK SESSION** – Chair Nelsen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- 2) **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Chair Nelsen called for public comments. No comments were forthcoming.
- 3) **MKGSA Groundwater sustainability Plan Update**
 - a. Department of Water Resources Inadequate Determination of the Revised 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Submitted for the San Joaquin Valley – Kaweah Subbasin Update
 - i. Update on GSP Revisions for Sustainable Management Criteria for Groundwater Levels and Subsidence – Mr. Fukuda gave an update on the revision to the SMCs for groundwater levels.
 - ii. Update on Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program and MKGSA Mitigation Plan – Mr. Fukuda gave an update on the revision to the Mitigation Program and MKGSA Mitigation Plan.
 - iii. Kaweah Subbasin Groundwater Quality Technical Core Team Update – Direction on Coordinated Sustainable Management Criteria for

Groundwater Quality – Mr. Fukuda presented the analysis and approach for setting SMCs for groundwater quality.

- iv. Kaweah Subbasin Interconnected Surface Water Technical Core Team Update – Direction on Coordinated Sustainable Management Criteria for Interconnected Surface Water – Mr. Fukuda presented the analysis and approach for setting SMCs for Interconnected Surface Water.

- 4) CALL TO ORDER REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE MKGSA – Direct Nelson adjourned the Combined Work Meeting and called to order the Regular Board Meeting of the MKGSA.
- 5) PUBLIC COMMENT – Chair Nelsen called for public comments. No comments were forthcoming.
- 6) GENERAL BUSINESS
 - a) **Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on August 13, 2024.** By a motion of Director Martin seconded by Director Bixler and unanimously carried by all directors present, the Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2024, were approved.
 - b) **Financial Statements – Year-to-Date** - Ms. Artis presented the financial statements. By a motion of Director Wynn, seconded by Director Wilbur and unanimously carried by all directors present, the financial report as presented were approved.
 - c) **Legal Counsel Report** – Ms. Kincaid provided the report on ongoing legal activities. Two issues statewide. Next week, on October 17th will be the second probation hearing for the Tule Subbasin. DWR still has 13 Subbasins that are still incomplete.
 - d) **MKGSA Advisory Committee Update** – Mr. Fukuda indicated that there were no updates from the Advisory Committee.
 - e) **MKGSA GSP Implementation Workplan**
 - i) Discussion and Consideration of Water Year 2022 Delinquency Date – Ms. Zegarra gave the report. A motion by Director Martin, seconded by Director Wilbur, and unanimously carried by all directors, presents the date set as the deadline for delinquent invoices, upon which the MKGSA will initiate collection actions, was set as December 20, 2024.
 - ii) Educating for Sustainability Presentation – The report was given by Ms. Rioux. Ms. Rioux reported that on August 13, 2024, the MKGSA Board of Directors accepted a policy that could exclude schools and non-profit organizations from invoice payments but remain within the Emergency Ordinance. The excluded schools and non-profit organizations will include an educational component regarding the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, California water, and water usage. The exemption from Emergency Ordinance associated fees has occurred, and the educational component is being constructed. MKGSA staff believes that the current proposed draft curriculum and lesson plans will cover the educational component. The curriculum and lesson plan has been prepared as a final draft. MKGSA staff has carefully compiled various topics for the final drafts and will prepare a final document following these main topics.
- 7) INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT – Mr. Fukuda gave the report. Mr. Fukuda was asked to speak at UC Davis, SGMA at 10 years, and at Maddy Institute / Ca Water Institute – SGMA for 10 years. Stephen Fagundes was on one of the panels and offered a grower perspective. Upcoming September 17th, Mr. Fukuda will be attending the Tule Subbasin SWRCB hearing. On September 23rd, Sustainable Conservation Interview on recharge and on October 25th – GRA small group discussion

on SGMA.

8) CALIFORNIA GROUNDWATER COALITION – No Report

9) LEGISLATION - No Report

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

11) CLOSED SESSION –

i) Gov't Code 54956.9 – Anticipated Litigation: One Case – Upon returning from Closed Session Ms. Kincaid reported that there were no actions taken

12) ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting October 2, 2024

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Chair

Attest:

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Secretary