

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

MINUTES

June 6, 2023 – 3:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Correia, Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel, Lee Johnson, Richard Garcia, Jessi Snyder, Soapy Mulholland

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda (Interim General Manager), James Fisher, Diana Zegarra, Trisha Whitfield

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Mark Larsen, Georgina King, Derrick Williams, Andrew Hart, Nataly Garcia, Marlene Ferreira, Johnny Gailey, Reyn Akiona, Larry Castro, Peter Petrellis

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Mulholland at 3:00 p.m.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Vice Chair Mulholland called for comments from the public. None were forthcoming.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Committee Member Correia motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for May 2th, 2023. Committee Member Vanden Heuvel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. **CALIFORNIA WATER PROGRAM UPDATE – KATIE HAVENS (SOURCE)**

Katie Havens, Director of Business Development (CA) of SOURCE Global presented Hydropanels. Hydropanels leverage solar panels to draw and convert water vapor into potable water. As GSAs consider mitigation for water quality and water availability, this solution is one option for remote areas and to provide redundancy to vulnerable communities.

5. **MKGSA GSP**

a. **GSP Review – Update**

1. *Well mitigation approach* – Ms. King provided the report. The Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program is a subbasin-wide approach to mitigating impacts from continued groundwater overdraft where undesirable results occur. The Program incorporates all the common elements of the 3 GSAs. The Mitigation Plan, on the other hand, incorporates the plan and policies specific to the Mid-Kaweah GSA, which proposes mitigation retroactive to the date the MKGSA was formed in 2015. The draft document is intended for a 60 public outreach to include meetings, workshops, and advertising on email lists. By motion of Committee Member Lee, and Seconded by Committee Member Snyder, the draft mitigation plans were approved for Board consideration.

6. KAWEAH SUBBASIN ACTIVITIES

- a. **Proposition 68 Implementation Grant – Update** Okieville Recharge Basin construction is estimated to start in October 2023.
- b. **SGM Round 1 Implementation Grant – Update** Ms. Zegarra is submitting an amendment to extend the deadlines outlined in the grant agreement. One of the components was a 5-year GSP update, which DWR is deferring while the Kaweah Subbasin is in probation. Therefore, the amendment will defer funds to address GSP deficiencies noted by DWR
- c. **SGM Round 2 Implementation Grant – Update** The draft funding recommendations for DWR were released on May 19, 2023. The Kaweah Subbasin was not awarded grant funds for the proposed projects of well mitigation and Catron Basin.
- d. **Department of Conservation Multi Benefit Land Repurposing Grant – Update** Reyn Akiona, owner of Valley Eco, provided the report. Akiona is contracted by Kaweah Delta WCD as the lead consultant for the MLRP grant awarded to the Kaweah Subbasin (\$10M). Akiona is currently drafting a short, readable plan of how to use the 75% of grant funds reserved for projects to repurpose retired agricultural land into a parcel that will yield multiple purposes (wildlife habitat, recreation, water supply), as long as the water usage on the newly repurposed land is lower than the productive agricultural ground it is replacing. Akiona is currently collaborating with other agencies on outreach (SRT, SHE, and UC Merced).
- e. **California Department of Food and Agriculture – Healthy Soils (HS) Program** Ms. Zegarra provided the report. The MKGSA is proposing submitting an application for the Healthy Soils program, funded by the CDFA. The MKGSA would apply for the block of funds, and would work collaboratively with a Technical Advisory Partner to administer funds directly with growers. The purpose of the grant is to implement conservation management practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon, and reduce atmospheric greenhouse gasses.

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

Mr. Fukuda provided the update. The committee member term limits changed from 3 subgroups of Advisory Committee members serving 2-year terms, to two groups serving 6-year terms. The MKGSA Management Committee recommended Joe Machado (DAC), Aaron Oliver (Visalia), Greg Collins (Env.), Jordon Leal (Agriculture), and Robert Saenz (Agriculture) be confirmed into the Advisory Committee to serve 6-year terms. Mr. Fukuda also provided a legal update on AB 1337, SB 389, and AB 460 advancing through the legislature. The MKGSA opposes all 3 bills, as they provide the SWRCB more authority for water rights curtailment.

8. ADJOURN

Vice-Chair Mulholland adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m. Because the next regularly scheduled committee meeting falls on a holiday (July 4th), the next meeting date is TBD

Attest: _____
GSA Board Secretary

Advisory Committee Chair