

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

MINUTES

June 18, 2025 – 3:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Correia, Richard Garcia, Robert Saenz, Ben Litwack, Joe Machado, Jessi Snyder, Phil Mirwald, Greg Collins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel, Jordan Leal, Aaron Oliver

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda, Diana Zegarra, Andres Hernandez

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Andrew Hart, Derrik Williams, Tara Khan, Maryse Suppinger, Dave Van Groningen, Adrianna Becerra

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Correia called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Correia called for public comments. No public comments came forward.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The motion to accept the minutes from May 21, 2025 was motioned by Vice Chair Snyder and seconded by Committee Member Machado. Motion passed unanimously.

4. KAWEAH SUBBASIN AND MID-KAWEAH GSA UPDATES

- a. Mr. Fukuda informed the Advisory Committee that the State Water Resources Control Board has requested to meet the Kaweah Subbasin the following week.
- b. The Mid-Kaweah GSA Well Inventory Program Pilot is underway. Andres Hernandez is heading this program. The Mid-Kaweah GSA purchased a new iPad and renewed an ESRI ArcGIS license for the Well Inventory Program. Mr. Hernandez is doing a great job recording plausible wells, recording his time and tracking his routes to provide vital information for the Well Inventory developers.
- c. Well Registration will start soon. Provost & Pritchard is gearing up to assist the three Kaweah GSAs with outreach for the Well Registration. Outreach is set to start around August 2025.
- d. The Mid-Kaweah GSA had their first well that qualified for Well Mitigation, but the well driller set to drill the well was going out of business. Self-Help Enterprises will return the water well application back to Mid-Kaweah GSA once the well driller is replaced.
- e. Kaweah Subbasin Subsidence is being monitored using two action plans: The Regional Subsidence Management & Action Plan (RSMAP) and the Lower Aquifer Subsidence Monitoring and Action Plan (LASTMAP). Subsidence outreach will happen soon to prep landowners and farmers for future actions and help explain subsidence. Mr. Fukuda noted that there is a large banking project being proposed in the Kaweah and Tule subbasins. Mid-Kaweah GSA along with Greater Kaweah GSA, Lower Tule GSA and Pixley GSA have agreed to contract with Stantec, which is an engineering firm with water resources

experience, for a feasibility study. The Kaweah Subbasin is also exploring the idea of injection wells to combat subsidence.

- f. The Groundwater Accounting Framework (GAF) will not be used to influence the annual allocations yet. The Kaweah GSAs felt the GAF would be ready for Water Year 2027 allocations.
- g. The Emergency Ordinance has been active since May 2022 with invoices sent out for Water Year (WY) 2022 (May 2022 – Sept. 2022), WY 2023 (Oct. 2022-Sept.2023), WY 2024 (Oct. 2023-Sept.2024) and WY 2025 (Oct.2024-Sept.2025). WY 2023 has a pay percentage of 95% with 7 water accounts not in good standing. WY 2024 Reservation invoice has a pay percentage of 100%, but WY 2024 True-Up invoice had 22 water accounts not in good standing. The Mid-Kaweah GSA Board extended the WY 2025 due date from May 23, 2025, to Sept. 30, 2025.
 - The discussion for WY 2026 allocation was introduced. The allocation proposed was 1.5 acre-feet per acre (AF/A) with Tier 1 & 2 being 0.33 AF/A.
 - Advisory Committee members discussed the pros and cons of such an allocation and requested further discussion on July 1, 2025.

5. DEDICATED RECHARGE BASIN POLICY

The definition and requirements of Dedicated Recharge Basin were discussed. The members discussed the flexibility of removing a minimum acreage and the addition of flood release or excess surface water use requirements. Staff decided to provide a clean definition and requirements for the members to vote on at the next meeting.

6. WELL METERING APPEAL POLICY

The Mid-Kaweah GSA staff received suggestions to lengthen the timeframe for proof of calibration for electromagnetic meters, delete a requirement and add a new requirement. The members discussed the types of documentation that can be used for proof of calibration or meter accuracy certification. Members decided to keep the vague description for documents to accommodate various ways to check meter accuracy. Staff decided to provide a clean definition and requirements for the members to vote on at the next meeting.

7. WATER CREDITS TRANSFER ALONG GSA BORDER POLICY

Water credit transfers between the Greater Kaweah GSA and the Mid-Kaweah GSA are not allowed currently. Both GSAs have agreed upon ground rules for a policy to transfer water credits across GSA boundary lines. Members discussed the 3-radius rule and how the rule can be abused after auto-balancing shares all credits among all APNs in the same water account. Collectively, the members were supportive of the policy. Staff decided to discuss with the Greater Kaweah on the issues the members found and provide clean ground rules for the members to vote on at the next meeting.

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

Committee members did not have anything to report.

9. ADJOURN

Chair Correia adjourned the meeting at 5:25 PM.

Attest: _____
GSA Board Secretary

Advisory Committee Chair

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