

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

**MINUTES**

May 6, 2022 – 3:00 p.m.

*This Committee Meeting was held remotely with no physical location due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Governors Executive Order N-29-20.*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Richard Garcia, Jessi Snyder, Soapy Mulholland, Max Storms, Mike Lane, Eric Correia

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lee Johnson, Blake Wilbur

**GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT:** Aaron Fukuda (Interim General Manager), James Fisher

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** Tim Mendonca, Derrick Williams, Gregory Liebau, Logan Robertson, Maryse Suppiger, Mikayla Tran, Nick Martin, Peter Petrelis, Staci Wilkins, Staci Ann Silva

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was opened by Vice-Chair Mulholland at 3:00 p.m. Mulholland led the committee in Chair Wilbur's absence.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Fukuda provided the public comment. The Kaweah Subbasin was awarded and received the \$7.6M grant from the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Fukuda was present at the ACWA conference in Sacramento to receive the award from DWR staff.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Committee Member Snyder mentioned Geoff Vanden Heuvel was listed as both a public attendee and committee member in the April 2022 minutes. Provided that comment is addressed, the April 2022 minutes were motioned to approved by Committee Member Snyder and seconded by Committee Member Correia. The motion was carried.

**4. EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22**

Mr. Fukuda provided the update. There are 71 wells permits (11 in the MKGSA) in Tulare County that are on hold until GSA's and Tulare County develop a form and process to approve wells and comply with N-7-22. The updated permit application must confirm no negative impacts to nearby wells or subsidence. Tulare County began discussing how to incorporate these new provisions in the permit 4 weeks ago, starting with Fresno County's well permit form as a template. Fukuda will present options to the board on how the MKGSA board would like to address clauses pertaining to adversely affecting infrastructure or wells from subsidence or well drawdown impacting adjacent wells. Fukuda also explained AB 2201 is a proposed legislation that includes many of the same items as Executive Order N-7-11 (including changes to well permitting) are codified in the bill.

MKGSA GSP

a. **GSP Review – Update**

*i. DWR Determination and Evaluation and Kaweah Subbasin GSO Technical Work*

Mr. Williams provided the update. Williams prefaced the presentation noting the GSP modifications are about 2 weeks behind schedule, meaning more decisions will have to be made in a compressed time frame to meet the July 27, 2022 deadline with DWR. Currently the sustainable management criteria (SMC) have not all been defined as on all 3 ‘incomplete’ items, as specified by DWR.

The Kaweah Subbasin was divided into 39 hydrologic zones, 16 of these 39 zones will be subdivided into upper and lower aquifers, as partitioned by the Corcoran Clay. Contour intervals of groundwater levels were mapped so that the 90% of of the bottom of all wells (domestic, industrial, and agricultural) installed since 2002 would be protected by the minimum threshold (MT). Some outliers were deleted in the Kaweah Subbasin contours, for instance in hydrologic zones with especially deep wells, to prevent SMC’s from allowing any cones of depression that could cause drawdown in adjacent hydrologic zones. This was accomplished, in part, by adding a second criteria in addition to protecting 90% of installed wells – “the rate of groundwater levels cannot decline more than historically experienced per the 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plan analysis.

“Undesirable result” is likely to remain as 1/3 of representative wells fail to meet the SMC. The working group is currently working on why 1/3 of wells failing to meet SMCs may, or may not, meet the description of “undesirable result”.

The Measurable Objective (MO) definition is currently being discussed. It will likely either be defined as halfway between the January 2020 water level and the Minimum Threshold, or be defined as a 5-year drought buffer above the minimum threshold. Both methods tend to result in similar measurable objective water levels.

The modified GSPs must be updated to reflect all changes (including all the references and appendices) by July 27, 2022. Approved modifications are actively being incorporated.

b. **MKGSA Groundwater Allocation and Pumping Cap Proposal – Emergency Order Review Update**

The Emergency Ordinance was approved at the April MKGSA Board meeting. There were no public comments during the meeting. The pumping cap is currently active and the first month of LandIQ data (May 2022) will be available for growers in July 2022, when open enrollment of the Water Dashboard is open.

5. **COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS, UPDATES, OR OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

No other items of interest were presented to the Committee.

6. **ADJOURN**

Mulholland adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m. The next meeting date is June 7<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
GSA Board Secretary

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Advisory Committee Chair