

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

MINUTES

February 20, 2024 – 3:00 pm

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jessi Snyder, Greg Collins

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

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Georgina King, Lisa McEwen, Rosalinda Alexander, Phil Mirwald, Jasmine Ramirez

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Correia at 3:05 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Correia called for public comments. None were forthcoming.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Chair Correia called for the approval for the January 9, 2024 meeting minutes. Committee Member Machado motioned to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Committee Member Oliver. The minutes were approved.

4. MKGSA GSP

a. **Sustainable Management Criteria**

Georgina King provided the report. Ms. King presented the three minimum threshold surfaces the Kaweah Subbasin Technical Team collaboratively developed thus far. Following the technical committee's remarks to improve the surfaces for the first two iterations, the 3rd iteration was presented (hereafter version 3). The updated protective threshold surface attempted to address all committee's feedback from version 2, including:

- Smoothing out the excessive spatial variability of minimum thresholds
- Removed points that had dry wells or otherwise suspect data (*where well readings were likely impacted from active pumping at the time of the measurement*).
- Included additional control points for a more complete groundwater surface.
- Protective thresholds were a function of saturated thickness in the EKGSA.

King presented the 5x, 6x, 7x, 8x, 9x, and 10x scenarios, where each number represents the average annual decline in groundwater levels between 2014-2022. For example, 5x is the cumulative effect of 5 more years of average annual declines. The larger the number, the greater the operational flexibility, but the greater the costs of mitigation. For version 2, the committee decided 7x was a good starting point. However, after the revisions and development of version 3, it was recommended additional space is preferred for operational flexibility. Additionally, there were fewer wells to mitigate in the subbasin in

the 10x scenario for version 3 than the 7x scenario in version 2. The MKGSA will still be managing to the measurable objective, above the minimum threshold, so it is anticipated mitigation costs.

The recommendation from the committee was to set the protective threshold at 10x. Committee Member Vanden Heuvel motioned for the approval, Committee Member Oliver seconded, and the recommendation was approved.

b. Mitigation Program and Framework

Ms. King presented the mitigation framework. The goal is to have the program implemented with emergency and interim supplies by Spring 2024. By spring of 2025, the mitigation program is scheduled to evolve and include technical assistance for all wells (including agricultural wells) and a well registration program. Aaron Fukuda stated he hopes to have some cash reserves to start the program, and then set the GSA allocation rates based on the previous year's mitigation needs, rather than trying to forecast the financial needs and potentially over collect funds.

5. EMERGENCY ORDINANCE POLICY UPDATE

The discussion on Sustainable Management Criteria took longer than anticipated, leaving little time for a policy update. This agenda item will be included on a future meeting.

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

Chair Correia motioned for any updates or reports. Mr. Fisher stated there was not sufficient time to cover GSA policy updates, but this will be a discussion item for the next meeting.

7. ADJOURN

Chair Correia adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2024.

Attest: _____
GSA Board Secretary

Advisory Committee Chair