

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

MINUTES

November 3, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Blake Wilbur, Mike Lane, Eric Furtado, Richard Garcia,
Jessi Snyder, Eric Correia, Geoff Vanden Heuvel, and Cam Tredennick

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Boyes and Lee Johnson

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: None

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda (Interim General Manager), Trisha Whitfield,
Andrew Munn, Leslie Caviglia

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Johnny Gailey, Stacie Ann Silva, Michael Hurley, Amanda Peisch-Derby, Max Storms, Andrew Hart, Mercedes Lorenzo, Carol Combs, Lisa Walsh, Sarah Rutheford, Tim Mendonca, Rick Bergin

1. CALL TO REGULAR ORDER

The meeting was opened by Chairman Wilbur at 3:05 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments from any members of the public were provided.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Wilbur asked if any Committee members had any changes to be brought up regarding the special meeting minutes held on September 1, 2020. A motion and second were made by Jessi Snyder and Richard Garcia, respectively, to approve the minutes as presented.

4. MKGSA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Chairman Wilbur requested that Eric Correia, Geoff Vanden Heuvel, and Cam Tredennick introduce themselves to the MKGSA Advisory Committee. After each new member gave a brief introduction, each of the MKGSA Advisory Committee members introduced themselves and the beneficial use category they represented. Thereupon, Mr. Fukuda gave a summary of the process used to select and approve the new members and the decision to continue to seek a representative to fill the vacant DAC seat. Lastly, Mr. Fukuda noted that there would be two positions that will have their terms expire. Mr. Garcia indicated his wish to stay on the committee after his term expires, and he wishes to seek another term if possible.

5. MKGSA GENERAL MANAGER SEARCH

Mr. Fukuda provided an update, noting that the Management Committee had finalized the solicitation package for the General Manager position, and it would be advertised soon. Mr. Vanden Heuvel requested that the solicitation be shared with the Advisory Committee.

6. KAWEAH SUBBASIN ACTIVITIES

Mr. Fukuda began his report with activities that the Kaweah Subbasin Managers were pursuing, which included efforts to meet with local water managers to improve the surface water tracking and reporting required as inputs to the Water Budget and Water Accounting Framework. He then noted that the Managers were discussing and looking at alternative Data Management Systems.

The next report Mr. Fukuda provided was on the Proposition 68 Planning Grant. He noted that progress was being made on collecting construction data on monitoring wells and the Fresno State University study's progress to investigate and develop a water metering strategy for the Kaweah Subbasin. Mr. Vanden Heuvel shared his concern that meters would be costly compared to satellite imagery methods for calculating groundwater use. Mr. Fukuda noted that both strategies would be considered, and a decision would be made in the future.

Mr. Fukuda then provided a summary of the Prop 68 Implementation Grant. He offered an overview of the program, highlighting that \$26 million is available for critically overdrafted basins, and applications were due by January 8, 2021. He also reported that the three members of the MKGSA were discussing projects and would be coordinating efforts with the other GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin.

Thereupon, Mr. Fukuda provided an update on the Regional Conservation Incentive Strategy, beginning outlining some of the program's issues. He then provided samples provided by consultants to the RCIS program of the various habitat options, mitigation dollars, and water requirements.

Mr. Fukuda proceeded to provide a report on the Tulare Irrigation District Water Marketing Strategy. He noted that representatives were identified for the three GSAs and Tulare ID. He reported that meetings would begin soon, and the program would take three years to develop.

Mr. Fukuda finished his Kaweah Subbasin report by providing an update on the Stanford SkyTEM project. He noted meetings had started on subsidence modeling.

7. MKGSA GSP

Mr. Fukuda reported that the response letter had been submitted to the Department of Water Resources.

Mr. Fukuda then provided a report on the MKGSA Workplan, which outlined seven priorities that the MKGSA was concentrating on in the first two years.

Next, Mr. Fukuda provided an update on the Okieville Basin project, noting that FEMA had denied the project after two years of consideration. While frustrated, Mr. Fukuda said he would continue to seek grant funds to pursue the project.

8. Tulare Irrigation District McKay Point Reservoir Project

Mr. Fukuda provided a presentation on the McKay Point Reservoir Project. He noted that the project is a 4,000 acre-foot reservoir that will be constructed and financed by the mining and sale

of aggregate from a parcel owned in partnership with the Consolidate Peoples Ditch Company and the Visalia and Kaweah Water company.

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

No reports were given

10. ADJOURN

There being no other matters to come before the Committee, Mr. Wilbur adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Advisory Committee Chair

Attest:

GSA Board Secretary