

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

MINUTES

November 5, 2024 – 9:00 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Aaron Oliver, Eric Correia, Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel, Greg Collins, Jessi Snyder, Jordan Leal, Phil Mirwald, Richard Garcia, Robert Saenz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joe Machado

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

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Johnny Gailey, Trisha Whitfield, Alyssa Tartaglia, Jimi Boy

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Correia called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Correia called for public comments. Johnny Gailey gave a public comment on a water dashboard issue. Mr. Fisher noted he will work on the issue.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Correia called for the approval for the September 10th and September 24th, 2024, Advisory Committee meetings. By motion of Committee Member Vanden Heuvel and seconded by Committee Member Collins, both minutes were approved.

4. **MKGSA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN UPDATE**

Mr. Fukuda spoke to the Advisory Committee members and public attendees on the update to the Mid-Kaweah GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Mr. Fukuda addressed the MKGSA Water Quality Monitoring Network after a comment from a member. The Network is being coordinated with the local Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association (KBWQA). The KBWQA is leery of allowing private data made public, but the MKGSA will try to work as best as possible with them.

Mr. Fukuda discussed the updates to the Kaweah Subbasin Coordination Agreement. The dispute resolution section was updated to include all Joint Power Authority agencies able to discuss an issue. There were also more dispute resolution steps included.

Mr. Fukuda discussed the Lower Aquifer Subsidence Management Action Plan (LASTMAP) included in the GSP. The Regional Subsidence Monitoring and Action Plan (RSMAP), Kaweah Subbasin Well Registration Program (KSWRP), the Kaweah Subbasin Lower Aquifer, Upper Aquifer, Single Aquifer Allocation Plan (KSAP) and the Small Community Well Proactive & Protective Action Plan were discussed. Members discussed the need to get this information out to growers as soon as possible. Recognizing the conflicting views on the depth at which the aquifer is confined spatially, the MKGSA is committed to outreach materials defining the Corcoran Clay (defining the confined aquifer). Staff and consultants will divert their attention to outreach after the adoption and/or the State Water Resources Control Board Probationary Hearing on January 7, 2025.

Mr. Fukuda also shared the Friant-Kern Canal Monitoring & Action Plan (FMAP) which was presented to the Friant Water Authority with majority support. He also explained meetings are being held with regional partners in collaboration with the RSMAP.

Lastly, Mr. Fukuda discussed the review and integration of the comment letters received on the Second Amended GSP as comment period was October 3rd to October 31st 2024. Self-Help Enterprises (SHE), Leadership Counsel with Community Water Center and others submitted comments letters focusing on water quality management improvements. The urban water supplier for the City of Visalia, California Water Service, submitted a comment letter discussing their obligations to the City and their support of the Replenishment Supply Concept and Kaweah Subbasins' determination to leave probationary status.

Mr. Fukuda discussed the final steps or timeline going forward. Advisory Committee Member Collins motioned, and Co-Chair Snyder seconded a recommendation to the MKGSA Board of Directors to approve the 2024 Second Amended GSP.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS, UPDATES, OR OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST
Chair Correia asked all members for reports or updates. No members came forward.
6. ADJOURN
Chair Correia adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM.

Attest: _____
GSA Board Secretary

Advisory Committee Chair