

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

**MINUTES**

July 29, 2024 – 3:00 pm

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joe Machado, Aaron Oliver, Richard Garcia, Jordan Leal, Jessi Snyder, Greg Collins, Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert Saenz, Eric Correia

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

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** Peter Petrellis, Mike Mederos

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

In Chair Correia's absence, Vice Chair Snyder assumed the lead role to govern the meeting. Vice Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Vice Chair Snyder called for public comments. None were forthcoming.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chair Snyder called for the approval for the June 4, June 18 & July 2, 2024. By motion of Committee Member Collins and seconded by Committee Member Garcia, the minutes were approved.

4. **STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD STAFF REPORT DEFICIENCIES**

- a. **Schedule** Mr. Fukuda presented the report. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) deficiencies for the Kaweah Subbasin were addressed in the 2024 amended GSP public draft. Subbasin staff and technical teams in the are now working on the deficiencies listed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) listed in the 2024 draft staff report. While the subbasin had the luxury of over a year to respond to DWR's deficiencies, the SWRCB deficiencies will have to be addressed in just 2 months from today.

With the short timeframe, it may not be possible for everyone to do a thorough review of the amended GSP as a whole given a comparatively brief 30-day public comment period. The MKGSA will make every effort to keep the Advisory Committee and Board aware of the process and methodology of the remaining two deficiencies (interconnected surface water and water quality) to amend to the amended 2024 draft GSP (this draft has been available for public review since Mid-June).

- b. **Approach to address SWRCB Deficiencies:** Fukuda discussed the early suggested process to address inter-connected surface water (ISW) and water quality. ISW requires quality water level data in riparian areas with a long enough time series to determine the degree and nature of connectivity. This is currently a data gap that can't be filled this year, therefore the initial approach is to rely heavily on modeling for this first iteration.

Fukuda stated most of the water quality data are in the two cities, water quality samples for the 11 constituents of concern are comparatively sparse in rural areas. However, dedicated monitoring wells were sampled for the last two years to provide baseline conditions.

Vice Chair Snyder suggested we should be focused on establishing a good baseline to monitor when water quality impacts begin and quickly determine if those impacts are due to GSA actions. There is already a myriad of regulatory frameworks dedicated to water quality, so it is best we work with those agencies on sampling frequency and methods. Snyder also recommended contacting the Division of Drinking Water for the most comprehensive, publicly available data (though accessibility is not always easy). GAMA, on the other hand, is easy to access but does not include all available public data.

5. EMERGENCY ORDINANCE – POLICY UPDATES

Fisher presented the report. There are two proposed policy adjustments for advisory committee consideration. (1) There are 6 water accounts that are more than 16 months past due. After considerable outreach and mounting pressure to close out the accounting for water year 2022, the 6 accounts lost the ability to purchase tier 1 or tier 2 water. Consequently, these 6 water accounts only have the more expensive mitigation and penalty tier available to purchase. Fisher requested that these accounts still be responsible for the higher costs but requested that the 1:1 loss of future allocation be forgiven. The committee generally agreed but deferred the decision to the next committee meeting. (2) There are two school farms and one non-profit (all totaling approximately 140 acres) that requested to be exempt. The committee agreed and thought the school farms should have an educational component to SGMA in their curriculum. The decision was deferred to the next meeting.

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

Vice Chair Snyder motioned for any updates or reports. None were forthcoming.

7. ADJOURN

Vice Chair Snyder adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

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

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Advisory Committee Chair