

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

MINUTES

Monday, December 18, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.

City of Visalia

220 N. Santa Fe St – Visalia, CA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Boyes, Eric Charles, Richard Garcia, Soapac Mulholland, James Nichols, Jessi Snyder, Blake Wilbur, Irene Lemons, Eric Furtado, Mike Lane

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brett Taylor

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Nelsen, Chair

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Leslie Caviglia, Aaron Fukuda, Paul Hendrix; Larry Rodriguez, Chris Petersen (GEI Consultants); Craig Moyle (Stantec)

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Maria Herrera, Carole Combs

1. **CALL TO REGULAR ORDER:**

The meeting was opened by Chairman Wilbur at 9:10 a.m.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment was presented.

3. **INTRODUCTIONS:**

Self-introductions of the Committee members, GSA member staff and general public were made.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

B. Wilbur brought to the Committee's attention the draft minutes of the September 16, 2016 committee meeting for review. With the motion of R. Garcia, second by I. Lemons and unanimously carried by all members, the minutes of the meeting were approved for filing.

5. **ESSAYS ON WATER:**

P. Hendrix next described a periodic effort to further inform the Committee on topics related to water supplies, delivery systems and issues in the Tulare County region and San Joaquin Valley in general. He indicated that these topics will be presented on a regular basis to the Committee and will assist in providing a foundation on which to consider and evaluate planning and policy decisions that will play a role in GSP preparation and future implementation. A. Fukuda then commenced to provide a PowerPoint slide show on Kaweah Sub-Basin surface water delivery systems and regional groundwater recharge accomplishments in 2017. He also described some of the more innovative ways in which Tulare ID is considering an expansion of recharge operations in wet years with surplus water availability. Mr. Wilbur sought details regarding soil characteristics, locations and data collection for optimal recharge programs.

6. **INTRA-BASIN COORDINATION:**

P. Hendrix reviewed the basis for coordination as among GSAs and interconnected sub-basins, starting with a history of DWR's evaluation of the greater San Joaquin Valley groundwater basin over time. He then reviewed the status of GSA formation and the three such agencies in the Kaweah Sub-Basin. Mr. Hendrix also summarized the joint sub-basin application for a Prop 1 planning grant and associated agreements among the East, Greater and Mid-Kaweah GSAs to accompany the application and to guide ongoing coordination efforts. He closed with a summary of coordination efforts to-date, and the role of individual GSA advisory committees and potential for a combined advisory effort later.

7. **TECHNICAL WORK:**

L. Rodriguez reviewed the overall role of GEI and its sub-consultants GSI and Stantec in the GSP and coordination work to come. He reviewed the schedules for both sub-basin coordination and plan preparation, noting that the goal is to have GSPs in near final form by mid-2019 to allow for the required public vetting that must occur prior to adoption by January 2020. He emphasized that the basin setting and its various components that all GSAs must embrace is a key task early on in the coordination process. He further noted that the East Kaweah GSA and its consultant Provost & Pritchard have additional work to undertake as this area was not part of the earlier water resources reports completed for KDWCD. S. Mulholland commented that the terminology being used by those involved in SGMA can be inconsistent and confusing, and that a list of defined terms should be employed by all to avoid misinterpretations among stakeholders. Mr. Rodriguez then described the GEI and sub-consultant team established to work on individual GSPs and regional coordination.

C. Petersen commenced to review a DWR outline of what a GSP should contain. He articulated how the work already conducted for Mid-Kaweah will be utilized in its GSP, including initial water budget calculations for the Mid-Kaweah member entities. He then described the development of sustainable management criteria, some being at the sub-basin level and some at the GSA or management area level. C. Combs commented that the Tule Sub-Basin entities have a technical workgroup that has engaged and made substantial progress and asked whether that kind of engagement will be occurring here. In response, Mr. Hendrix referred to the Kaweah Sub-Basin MOU which sets up a management team and technical advisory committee to guide the Kaweah coordination effort.

8. **OUTREACH STRATEGY:**

C. Moyle next began with an overview of his background as a journalist and public relations consultant, as well as the anticipated role of the Committee in reflecting the public's views and values as input to the planning process. He referred to the Interested Party listing submitted to DWR by Mid-Kaweah at its formation and solicited additional names and contacts to add to the listing. He reviewed a questionnaire for completion by Committee members, to be followed by group interviews regarding members' familiarity with the subject at hand and thoughts on the Committee's role within the GSA.

9. **WEBSITE ASSESSMENT:** Mr. Moyle next discussed the GSA's website and initial development by the City of Visalia staff. He then presented and discussed the website assessment report prepared by Stantec for the Committee's review and comment by early January 2018. Mr.

Rodriguez commented that GEI's database management system is being set up to potentially link to the website to aid in the public's review of pertinent planning information.

10. COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:

Mr. Hendrix indicated that the GSA Board has held regular meetings on a quarterly basis with special meetings as necessary but that the Board may change its regular meeting schedule to every other month. He advised that the Committee may consider meeting on a similar pattern. Mr. Wilbur then noted that future dates for Committee meetings will await a decision by the Board on its regular meeting schedule.

There being no other matters to come before the Committee, Chairman Wilbur adjourned the meeting at 11:08 am.

Advisory Committee Chair

Attest:

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Secretary