

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

**MINUTES**

March 4, 2025 – 3:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Eric Correia, Aaron Oliver, Joe Machado, Jordan Leal, Phil Mirwald, Robert Saenz, Ben Litwack

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jessi Snyder, Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel, Richard Garcia, Greg Collins

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

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** Andrew Hart, Trisha Whitfield, Marlene Livingston Dairy

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Correia called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM. The Advisory Committee welcomed Committee Member Litwack to the Mid-Kaweah GSA Advisory Committee. All Committee members introduced themselves and what stakeholders they represent.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Correia called for public comments. No public comments came forward.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The two meeting minutes from November 5, 2024, and February 5, 2025, didn't look to have any revisions or mistakes. The motion to accept the minutes was motioned by Committee Member Machado and seconded by Committee Member Saenz.

**4. KAWEAH SUBBASIN AND MID-KAWEAH GSA UPDATES**

Mr. Fisher gave an update on priorities for 2025. Well Inventory, Well Registration and Subsidence Education is set to begin this year. Montgomery & Associates, Mid-Kaweah GSA paid consultants, have created an outreach plan and educational materials for this endeavor. Mr. Fisher gave an update on the Visalia and Tulare Urban Groundwater Strategic Plan that is set up to address the cone of depression under the city footprint. Mid-Kaweah GSA plays a critical role in the Plan discussions.

**5. EMERGENCY ORDINANCE POLICY UPDATES**

- a. Mr. Fisher brought a new proposed policy to the Advisory Committee called the Water Distribution Policy. The Water Distribution Policy addressed groundwater credits from surface water deliveries during partial-delivery times. The policy discussion heavily referred to the Tulare Irrigation District (TID) February – March 2025 flood release but was meant to encompass all partial delivery times. The Advisory Committee understood the reason behind zero groundwater credit during times of unequal access to all surface water users in TID. However, the Committee agreed that partial delivery should be defined, the use of private recharge basins should be accounted for and recommend to TID that deliveries during partial delivery times should be sent to high subsidence areas. The

motion to recommend the policy to the Board but provide more details later was motioned by Committee Member Leal and seconded by Chair Correia.

- b. Mr. Fisher proposed a solution to farming operations that are split by GSA boundary lines similar to last week. The proposed solution was to allow the Mid-Kaweah GSA Board to approve of case-by-case groundwater credit transfers. The Advisory Committee discussed groundwater credit transfers outside Mid-Kaweah GSA. The Advisory Committee did not agree to recommend a policy to the Board, but they acknowledged that any groundwater credit transfers cannot allow overdraft or harm the path to groundwater sustainability.
- c. Mr. Fisher proposed a solution to a situation where groundwater credits are at their final stop similar to the discussion at the prior meeting. The final stop situation can occur in the Mid-Kaweah GSA when a farmer downsizes and eventually decides to sell his last parcel. The last parcel has groundwater credits that are attached to the parcel. This situation would cause credits to be orphaned. The proposed solution was that Mid-Kaweah GSA would pay the landowner for the GSA value of the remaining credits if the landowner did not want to sell the credits on the Water Market. The Advisory Committee agreed with the payment to the landowner in the Orphan Credits scenario. Committee Member Machado motioned to recommend the policy to the Board and Committee Member Leal seconded the motion.

6. REVISED WATER YEAR 2025 INVOICE TIMELINE UPDATE

Miss Zegarra gave an update on the Invoices Timeline for 2025. The 2025 Invoice Timeline lays out the beginning date that invoices will be mailed out to the date that invoices will be due. Mid-Kaweah GSA will begin the process of having a stricter timeline and a firm due date in 2025. The firm due dates are due to audit completion purposes.

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

Mr. Fisher gave a quick update on the Kern Subbasin Probationary Meeting and State Water Resources Control Board decision.

8. ADJOURN

Chair Correia adjourned the meeting at 4:15 PM.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Advisory Committee Chair