

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

SUMMARY MINUTES

Monday, May 09, 2016
4:00 p.m.
Tulare Irrigation District
6826 Avenue 240 – Tulare, CA 93274

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Boyes, Eric Charles, Richard Garcia, Ed Henry, Soapac Mulholland, James Nichols, Jessi Snyder, Blake Wilbur

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brett Taylor

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bixler, Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Leslie Caviglia, Aaron Fukuda, Paul Hendrix, Ken Richardson, Don Dorman, Kathi Artis, Roxanne Yoder, Ken Richardson (legal counsel), Larry Rodriguez (GEI Consultants)

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: W.P. Anderson, Tom Clark, Malcolm Jones, Bob Ludekens, Michael Tharp, Bill Wallace

1. **CALL TO REGULAR ORDER:**
Chair Bixler opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
Chair Bixler called for public comment. No public comment was presented.
3. **INTRODUCTIONS:**
Introductions were made of the GSA staff, followed by self-introductions of the Committee members and general public.
4. **OVERVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT:**
P. Hendrix presented an overview of the development and importance of groundwater to the Tulare region and San Joaquin Valley in general. He then discussed the circumstances giving rise to the passage of SGMA and its key requirements. Mr. Hendrix next discussed the reasons for the two cities and irrigation district to collectively form a GSA. He concluded with identifying the various types of stakeholders, means through which they will be involved in the process, and objectives of the Mid-Kaweah GSA in achieving stakeholder acceptance of the process. E. Henry asked about the specific timeline for compliance with SGMA, and information in that regard was furnished. J. Snyder sought clarification on the total groundwater pumping of the cities and TID.
5. **OVERVIEW OF JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT:**
K. Richardson reviewed the cardinal sections of the JPA, highlighting the composition of the board, voting, committees and attendance requirements, budgetary decisions, and new member and withdrawal provisions. He and D. Bixler emphasized that cost sharing is to be one-third from each member, unless otherwise determined by the GSA Board.

6. OVERVIEW OF BROWN ACT:

R. Yoder next summarized the salient elements of the Ralph M. Brown Act and handed out guidelines on compliance therewith by elected officials and appointees. She discussed what constitutes a meeting, quorums, posting of agendas, and the meaning of "action taken."

7. REVIEW OF BOARD ACTIONS AND NEXT STEPS:

L. Caviglia gave a summary of the formation and officer composition of the GSA Board. She summarized the appointments and actions taken by the Board during the course of its prior meetings in 2015 and thus far in 2016. Ms. Caviglia then reviewed the next steps to be taken by the Committee, including review of information gathered by GEI, offering suggested means of outreach by the GSA, and election of a chair and vice chair of the Committee. M. Jones commented that the Valley Voice would provide a good way to communicate. She lastly introduced Larry Rodriguez with GEI Consultants, and Mr. Rodriguez proceeded to describe his firm's experience in groundwater management, water supply analyses, and program facilitation in the San Joaquin Valley and elsewhere.

Mr. Dorman thereupon offered comments on the stakeholder process, saying that perceptions will play a major role in defining the problem and that the passage of SGMA mandates that we deal with the groundwater overdraft situation in the Mid-Kaweah area. He added that the GSA seeks input and questions from the stakeholders and general public, and that it needs to be recognized that people's perceptions and issues will be as relevant as the technical issues to be addressed.

Other questions were asked regarding other GSAs and the number that have already formed. J. Nichols observed that we are playing catch up in California, and asked what is known about the groundwater management schemes in Arizona and New Mexico. R. Garcia asked to what degree the Kaweah Delta WCD will be involved, and commented that grant funds would be well-suited for additional data collection. It was explained that the Kaweah Delta WCD will be intimately involved, as they had prepared the water resources analysis for most of the Kaweah sub-basin.

8. NEXT MEETING:

Discussion was held regarding the time required for review of available groundwater information and data by the engineering consultant, and that an appropriate committee topic for the next meeting would be a summary and overview of such information. It was then concluded that the next meeting of the committee would be scheduled upon completion of that review.

Chair Bixler adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Chair

Attest:

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Secretary