



**MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

March 11, 2025 @ 3:00 PM
City of Tulare Council Chambers
491 North M Street
Tulare, CA 93274

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Nelsen, David Bixler, Dave Martin, Dennis Mederos and Liz Wynn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Blake Wilbur

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda, Kathi Artis, Diana Zegarra, Debbie Burgos, Trisha Whitfield and Nick Bartsch

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Mark Larsen, Luis Paniagua, Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Ryo Takahara, Justin Murray, Megan Harper, James Silva, Lisa McEwen, Bob Bender, Dave Van Gronigen, and Adriana Becera

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Nelsen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- 2) **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Mr. Paniagua commented on his work with the Ag Cooperative Extension to work with small farmers on sustainable groundwater management act understanding.
- 3) **GENERAL BUSINESS**
 - a) **Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on February 11, 2025.** By a motion of Director Bixler, seconded by Director Mederos and unanimously carried by all directors present, the Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2025 were approved.
 - b) **Financial Reports**
 - i) **Financial Statements – Year-to-Date** - Ms. Artis presented the financial statements. By a motion of Director Wynn, seconded by Director Martin and unanimously carried by all directors present, the Financial Statement as presented were approved.
 - ii) **Call For Funds** – Mr. Fukuda gave a report on the Call-For-Funds (through July 2025). Mr. Fukuda gave a summary of the costs associated with the current Call For Funds. By a motion of Director Mederos, seconded by Director Nelsen and unanimously carried by all directors present, a call for funds in the amount of \$780,00 was approved to be equally shared by the members of the MKGSA.
 - c) **Legal Counsel Report** – Ms. Kincaid provided an update on legal activities pertaining to SGMA, highlighting the current GSPs that had been approved and those that were deemed inadequate. Ms. Kincaid also updated the Board on the Tulare Lake Subbasin litigation status against the State Water Resources Control Board.

- d) MKGSA Advisory Committee Update** – Mr. Fukuda updated the Board on Advisory Committee activities. The Advisory Committee met on February 4, 2025. Credit transfer across GSA Boundaries – Tabled. Orphan Groundwater Credits – Reimbursement for credits upon sale and conversion of land out of the ordinance – Recommend consideration and approval by the MKGSA Board. Surface Water Run Credit Policy – not allowing those that use surface water on a partial run to receive credit on the Water Dashboard – Recommend consideration and approval by the MKGSA Board.
- e) MKGSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan**
- i) 2024 Second Amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Coordination Agreement Update – Mr. Fukuda updated the status of the GSP, including a report on recent meetings with the SWRCB. Mr. Fukuda noted that the SWRCB was provided with a report on the current implementation status in the Kaweah Subbasin and that the SWRCB was encouraged by our ongoing water quality sampling and utilization of the Kaweah Subbasin Core Team process.
- f) MKGSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation**
- i) 2025 Kaweah Subbasin Workplan - Mr. Fukuda gave the update on Kaweah Subbasin Technical Teams, noting updates on groundwater levels, water quality sampling, land subsidence, well mitigation, small community well protection, water accounting framework, well inventory, and well registration.
- ii) MKGSA Well Mitigation Program – Mr. Fukuda gave the update, noting that work continues on Version 2.0 of the Mitigation Plan, and a well within the City of Tulare is being considered for well mitigation, but is being coordinated with the City of Tulare and their Well Ordinance.
- iii) Tulare County Well Permit Letter of Support – Mr. Fukuda gave a report regarding developing a Well Permitting Ordinance by the County of Tulare that would continue the ongoing collaboration implemented to comply with Executive Order No. N-7-22, which ended in 2024. By a motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Bixler, and unanimously carried by all directors present, the Interim General Manager was authorized to draft and submit, upon concurrence with the Board Chairman, a letter of support for the Tulare County Well Ordinance.
- iv) Discuss and Consider Task Order No. 12 – Amendment No. 4 – Kaweah Subbasin Groundwater Model Refinements and Temporal Update through 2024 with Montgomery & Associates – Mr. Fukuda gave the review on Task Order No. 12 Amendment No. 4, Structural Refinements, Temporal Update, Subsidence Refinement, Interconnected Surface Water Remodeling, Model Simulations and Calibration and Model Documentation. The budget will be shared equally with the GKGSA and EKGSA through a cost-sharing agreement. Work begins now and will continue through 2026. By a motion of Director Wynn, seconded by Director Martin, and unanimously carried by all directors present, the Interim General Manager was authorized to sign and execute Task Order No. 12 Amendment No. 4.
- v) Discuss and Consider Cost Sharing Agreement Between the East Kaweah GSA, Greater Kaweah GSA, and Mid-Kaweah GSA – Mr. Fukuda gave the review. EKGSA, GKGSA, and MKGSA wish to establish an umbrella cost-share agreement for the ongoing Kaweah Subbasin Technical Core Team work. Cost Share is equal amongst the three GSAs, and the work is owned equally by the GSAs. By a motion of Director Bixler, seconded by Director Wynn and unanimously carried by all directors present, the Cost Sharing Agreement Between EKGSA, GKGSA, and MKGSA was approved.
- vi) Emergency Ordinance Policies
1. Discuss and Consider Orphan Credit Policy – Mr. Fukuda presented the

Orphan Credit Policy, which was unanimously approved by the MKGSA Advisory Committee to recommend that the MKGSA Board of Directors consider and approve the policy. By a motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Mederos and unanimously carried by all directors present, the Orphan Credit Policy was approved.

2. Discuss and Consider Surface Water Run Credit Policy – Mr. Fukuda presented the Surface Water Run Credit Policy, which was unanimously approved by the MKGSA Advisory Committee to recommend that the MKGSA Board of Directors consider and approve the policy. By a motion of Director Bixler, seconded by Director Wynn and unanimously carried by all directors present, the Surface Water Run Credit Policy was approved.
- 4) **INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT** – Mr. Fukuda reported on his participation in the American Pistachio Grower Association Conference, Urban Water Institute conference, Sacramento Valley Advisory Committee, and Kern County Water Association Conference.
- 5) **CALIFORNIA GROUNDWATER COALITION**
 - a) Board Meeting and Lobby Day—Mr. Fukuda gave an update from the March California Groundwater Coalition Board meeting and Lobby Day event in Sacramento.
- 6) **LEGISLATION** – Mr. Fukuda discussed Senate Bill (SB) 72 and Assembly Bill (AB) 267 with the Board of Directors. By a motion of Director Mederos, seconded by Director Wynn, and unanimously carried by all directors present, the Board of Directors approved a support position for SB 72 and AB 267.
- 7) **BOARD/STAFF UPDATES, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS OR OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST** – No items for discussion
- 8) **CLOSED SESSION** –
 - a) Gov’t Code 54956.9 – Anticipated Litigation: One Case

Upon returning from Closed Session, Ms. Kincaid indicated no actions were taken.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM. Next Regular Meeting – April 8, 2025

Chairman

Secretary