



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

April 9, 2024 @ 1:00 P.M.
City of Tulare Council Chambers
491 North M Street
Tulare, CA 93274

MEMBERS PRESENT: Liz Wynn, Dennis Mederos, David Bixler, Dave Martin, and Blake Wilbur, Leslie Caviglia (alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Nelsen

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda, Valerie Kincaid, James Fisher, Diana Zegarra, Trisha Whitfield, Alex Peltzer, Derrik Williams, and Georgina King

PUBLIC ATENDEES: Mark Larsen, Johnny Gailey, Dave Van Groningen, and Robert Bender.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER – Vice-Chair Wilbur called the work session to order at 3:00 p.m.
- 2) PUBLIC COMMENT – Vice-Chair Wilbur called for public comments. No comments were forthcoming.
- 3) GENERAL BUSINESS
 - a) **Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on March 12, 2024.** By a motion of Director Mederos, second by Director Bixler and unanimously carried by all Directors present, the minutes of the meeting on March 12, 2024, were approved.
 - b) **Financial Reports**
 - i) *Financial Statements* – Year-to-Date – Mr. Fukuda presented the report in place of Ms. Artis. By a motion of Director Martin, second by Director Bixler, and unanimously carried by all Directors present, the bills to be paid were approved.
 - ii) *Call-for-Funds* – Mr. Fukuda provided a review of the current and future expenses for a proposed call-for-funds. The largest of the expenses are Consultant Services and TID Admin Cost. By a motion of Director Mederos and seconded by Director Wynn, the Call-For-Funds in the total of \$429,000 was approved.
 - c) **Legal Counsel Report** – Ms. Kincaid provided the update on both surface water and groundwater issues. For surface water -, Phase 1 of the Bay Delta Plan has been in ligation. Sacramento Superior Court denied all 116 cases of action. Appeals are due in mid-May. For groundwater - the SWRCB issued a draft resolution that it will consider on April 16, 2024, the Tulare Lake Probation Hearing in Sacramento.
 - d) **MKGSA Advisory Committee Update** - Mr. Fukuda provided the update. The Advisory Committee met on February 20th and March 5th. Montgomery & Associates presented the Kaweah Subbasin Subsidence Core Team’s work finding the optimal point between flexibility in setting groundwater levels and affordability of mitigating shallow domestic wells. M&A also presented infrastructure impacts due to subsidence and coordinating the

minimum threshold with the Tule Subbasin boundary to limit subsidence to 7' instead of the originally planned 9'. The Measurable Objective (MO) remains at zero, highlighting the subbasin's commitment to minimize or eliminate subsidence – however residual subsidence alone may render the MO unachievable. The Advisory Committee agreed to proceed with the MT set at a maximum of 7' to be more in line with the Tulare Lake and Tule subbasins. Kaweah's highest subsidence occurs at and near the borders of both subbasins).

e) **MKGSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update**

i) *Department of Water Resources Inadequate Determination of the Revised 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Submitted for the San Joaquin Valley – Kaweah Subbasin Update* – Mr. Fukuda gave the updates.

1. *Kaweah Subbasin Technical Team Subsidence Core Team Update – Direction on Coordinated Recommendation for Minimum Thresholds for Subsidence* – The subsidence core team group meets every Friday to coordinate a subbasin-wide approach managing land subsidence. The proposed minimum threshold (MT) for subsidence is 7 feet while the measurable objective (MO) is no (0 ft) subsidence. Critical infrastructure and undesirable results that could result from excessive subsidence have been identified as the Friant-Kern Canal, local canals, gravity pipelines, supply wells, and flood control (levees and altered flood inundation maps). Currently the team is correlating the spatially variable relationship between water levels and subsidence.
2. *Kaweah Subbasin Technical Tea Water Level Core Team Update – Direction on Coordinated Recommendation for Minimum Thresholds for Groundwater Levels* – The minimum threshold (MT) represents groundwater conditions at a representative monitoring site that, when exceeded individually or in combination with minimum thresholds at other monitoring sites, may cause undesirable results. The MKGSA Advisory Committee and Board of Directors agreed to proceed with the 10X (10 times the average annual decline) decline for MTs in preparation of the revised GSP.
3. *Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Plan – Direction on Coordinated Recommendation* – Mr. Fukuda provided the report. Beginning in Spring 2024, version 1.0 of the Mitigation Program Version 1.0 is intended for adoption, which provides emergency drinking water within 24-hours and domestic well mitigation for dry wells. Beginning in spring 2025, the program may expand to include technical assistance for non-drinking water wells. Mr. Fukuda then reviewed the claims process.
4. *Mid-Kaweah GSA Well Mitigation Plan – Direction on Coordinated Recommendation* – Largely incorporates the components of the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program. Technical assistance is not envisioned to be part of the plan until 2025. To fund the program, rather than estimating the costs and over-collecting the goal will be to reserve the costs for approximately one year of mitigation and determine the rates needed to replenish the reserve.
5. *Discussion and Consideration of Letter of Intent to Enter into an Agreement for Domestic Well Mitigation* – Mr. Fukuda described the letter of intent (non-binding) so SHE can assist with implementing the well mitigation program and plan. By a motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Wynn the motion passes to sign the Letter of Intent to Enter Into an Agreement for Domestic Well Mitigation with SHE.

f) **MKGSA GSP Implementation workplan**

i) Amended Emergency Ordinance to Establish an Extraction Limitation for the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Service Area – Mr. Fukuda gave the update. The MKGSA is working to incorporate all the amendments into the EO and to update/clarify some of the language found confusing by

