

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

MINUTES

August 6, 2024 – 3:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Correia, Richard Garcia, Jordan Leal, Joe Machado, Robert Saenz, Jessi Snyder, Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Aaron Oliver, Greg Collins

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda, James Fisher, Diana Zegarra

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Johnny Gailey, Andrew Hart, Phil Mirwald, Soapy Mulholland, Peter Petrelis, Trisha Whitfield

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Correia called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Correia called for public comments. None were forthcoming.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Correia called for the approval for the July 29, 2024, meeting. By motion of Committee Member Machado and seconded by Committee Member Garcia, the minutes were approved.

4. **STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD STAFF REPORT DEFICIENCIES**

- a. **Schedule** Mr. Fukuda presented the report. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) deficiencies for the Kaweah Subbasin were addressed in the 2024 amended GSP public draft. Subbasin staff and technical teams are now working on the deficiencies listed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) listed in the 2024 draft staff report. While the subbasin had the luxury of over a year to respond to DWR's deficiencies, the SWRCB deficiencies will have to be addressed in ~2 months from today (October 2024).

With the short timeframe, it may not be possible for everyone to do a thorough review of the amended GSP as a whole given a comparatively brief 30-day public comment period. The MKGSA will make every effort to keep the Advisory Committee and Board aware of the process and methodology of the remaining two deficiencies (interconnected surface water and water quality) to amend the 2024 draft GSP (this draft has been available for public review since Mid-June).

- b. **Approach to address SWRCB Deficiencies:** Mr. Fukuda discussed the early suggested process to address inter-connected surface water (ISW) and water quality. The Kaweah Subbasin Technical Team and staff met with local water quality groups during a Water Quality Workshop on July 8, 2024, to discuss the integration of all groups. Similarly, the Kaweah Subbasin Technical Team and staff met with local environmental and habitat restoration groups during a ISW Workshop on July 22, 2024, to discuss different

viewpoints and technologies in order to locate potential ISWs. The Technical Teams are currently working on a water quality undesirable result policy description. The Technical Teams are looking into remote sensing technologies to visualize Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) within the Subbasin to locate possible ISW locations. The Kaweah Subbasin Technical Teams and management met with the SWRCB on August 5, 2024. The overall message from the SWRCB is there isn't any distaste to our progress.

5. EMERGENCY ORDINANCE – POLICY UPDATES

Mr. Fisher presented the report. There are two proposed policy adjustments for advisory committee consideration. (1) There are water accounts that are more than 16 months past due from the Water Year 2022. After considerable outreach and mounting pressure to close out the accounting for water year 2022, the accounts lost the ability to purchase tier 1 or tier 2 water. Consequently, these water accounts only have the more expensive mitigation and penalty tier available to purchase. Fisher requested that these accounts still be responsible for the higher costs but requested that the 1:1 loss of future allocation be forgiven - and that any account in the future that goes into penalty tier be provided a one-time forgiveness on the 1:1 loss of future allocation. Committee Member Machado made the motion to allow a one time 1:1 loss of future allocation forgiveness. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Leal, and the motion was approved to be sent to the Board of Directors. (2) There are two school farms and one non-profit (all totaling approximately 140 acres) that requested to be exempt. Committee Member Garcia made the motion to exempt the two school farms and one non-profit from payments but will remain in the Emergency Ordinance through an optional curriculum to be created by the MKGSA. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Leal, and the motion was approved to be sent to the Board of Directors.

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

This item was skipped due to time constraints.

7. ADJOURN

Chair Correia adjourned the meeting at 4:40 pm.

Attest: _____
GSA Board Secretary

Advisory Committee Chair