

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

**MINUTES**

September 1, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.

This Committee Meeting was held via teleconference with no physical location due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Governors Executive Order N-29-20.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Blake Wilbur, Mike Lane, Eric Furtado, Richard Garcia,  
Jessi Snyder, James Nichols, Soapy Mulholland, Lee Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Boyes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: None

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda (Interim General Manager), Trisha Whitfield,  
Andrew Munn, Derrik William (Montgomery & Associates), Tim  
Leo (Montgomery & Associates)

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Johnny Gailey, Gene Kilgore, Kel Mitchel, Carol Combs, Lisa Walsh, Sarah  
Rutheford, Tim Mendonca, Rick Bergin

1. CALL TO REGULAR ORDER

The meeting was opened by Chairman Wilbur at 3:05 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments from any members of the public were provided.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Wilbur asked if any Committee members had any changes to be brought up regarding the special meeting minutes held on August 3, 2020. A motion and second were made by Soapy Mullholland and Jessi Snyder, respectively, to approve the minutes as presented.

4. MKGSA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Fukuda updated the Committee on the process to identify three new Advisory Committee members. He noted that a press release and application would be forthcoming and that members could talk to community members about participating in the Advisory Committee. He also reported that when the three new members are appointed, the Management Committee would recommend that the new Executive Director of the Sequoia Riverlands Trust replace Soapy Mullholland as the representative.

5. MKGSA GENERAL MANAGER SEARCH

Mr. Fukuda provided an update, noting that the Management Committee was finalizing the solicitation package, and it would be released soon.

6. KAWEAH SUBBASIN ACTIVITIES

Mr. Fukuda began the report by providing a summary of activities that have taken place at the Kaweah Subbasin Managers discussions. He then provided a report on the Kaweah Subbasin Prop

68 Grant, the RCIS Program, the Kaweah Subbasin Water Marketing Strategy, and the Stanford University SkyTEM project.

Sarah Rutheford was introduced to the Advisory Committee. Ms. Rutheford gave a presentation on the CV-SALTS program, which she stated was a program to provide representation for dischargers of nitrates and salts to groundwater. She noted that the group had established the Kaweah Water Foundation, a non-profit organization responsible for identifying management areas, an early action plan, and a long-term solution. Lastly, Ms. Rutheford noted that there had been ongoing discussions with the GSAs within the Kaweah Subbasin regarding their role, which could be a shared seat on the board or individual seats on their advisory committee.

7. MKGSA GSP SUBMITTAL

Mr. Fukuda noted to the Advisory Committee that he had been working with Montgomery & Associates and Valerie Kincaid on a draft Response Letter, which was distributed to the Advisory Committee. Mr. Williams then began a review of the letters that were submitted, how the approach to developing the response letter took shape, and the timeline for reviewing and approving the response letter was designed. After this introduction, Mr. William and Mr. Fukuda reviewed the Response Letter themes with the Advisory Committee. Chairman Wilbur noted that he would like to see us address the letter for ALDF. Mr. Fukuda recommended that the letter be adjusted to reference the Dairy Cares letter as addressing the ALDF concerns. Mr. Furtado noted that the format of the letter was effective and questioned what DWR is expecting. Mr. William responded that DWR does not expect the GSP to be perfect, but we can make it better. Mr. Lee reiterated that he liked the letter and the concept that it is a work in progress. Mr. Garcia noted that he liked the letter but wished that it had addressed the historical connection between surface water and groundwater. With no other comments, it was motioned by Ms. Mullholand and seconded by Mr. Furtado to approve the letter for consideration by the MKGSA Board with the addition of a provision to address the ALDF comment letter. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Mr. Johnson: Yes  
Mr. Furtado: Yes  
Ms. Snyder: Yes  
Mr. Nichols: Yes  
Mr. Garcia: Yes  
Ms. Mullholand: Yes  
Mr. Lane: Yes

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

No reports were given

9. ADJOURN

There being no other matters to come before the Committee, Mr. Wilbur adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

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Advisory Committee Chair

Attest:

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GSA Board Secretary

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