

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

MINUTES

May 4, 2021 – 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: Soapy Mulholland, Mike Lane, Blake Wilbur, Eric Furtado, Jessi Snyder, Lee Johnson, Richard Garcia, Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Eric Correia

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Boyes, James Nichols

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: None

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda (Interim General Manager), Trisha Whitfield, and Leslie Caviglia

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Stacie Ann Silva, Lisa Walsh, Angela Islas Self-Help, Annette Temeboe CDFW, Tim Leo, Derrik Williams, Steve Johnson, Johnny Gailey DVWA

1. CALL TO REGULAR ORDER

The meeting was opened by Chairman Wilbur at 3:02 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 February 2, 2021. Lee Johnson noted his name was not present in the most recent minutes and motioned to amend his name. A motion was made by Geoff Vanden Heuvel to approve the minutes as presented, and was seconded by Mike Lane.

4. MKGSA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Fukuda gave an update on the Committee Membership Vacant Seats. The Advisory Committee still has an at-large Ag Seat that was vacated by Mark Boyes. The Disadvantaged Community Seat also remains open, and Mr. Fukuda mentioned a discussion with the Waukena School Superintendent, and the potential to find a candidate in the Waukena area. Eric Furtado left the CalWater seat and took a new position with the City of Tulare. Tom Brassfield was appointed by CalWater to fill that seat.

5. MKGSA GENERAL MANAGER SEARCH

Mr. Fukuda provided an update. The MKGSA and Tulare Irrigation District have reached an Administrative Services Agreement. TID will provide the administrative services and Interim General Manager and will obtain a Water Resources Engineer. While searching for a General Manager, we found that applicants were either over- or under-qualified. So, TID will hire a Water Resource Engineer that will split their time between TID work and MKGSA work evenly. The goal is to provide ample training and local knowledge to become the MKGSA General Manager in

3-5 years. Mr. Fukuda noted that we have already advertised, gone through the interview process, and hired James Fisher who will be starting soon.

6. KAWEAH SUBBASIN ACTIVITIES

Mr. Fukuda began his report with an update of the Kaweah Subbasin Managers Report regarding Kaweah Subbasin MODFLOW Model. We have retained Montgomery & Associates to develop the Kaweah Subbasin MODFLOW model. M&A unpacked all the data files from GEI and GSI, began testing the model, and preliminary MODFLOW model results show a close resemblance to published GSP allocation values. For the next few months they will re-calculate the water budget using these MODFLOW results, re-calculate the annual volumes of surface water and ground water, and to use these updated results to drive an updated water accounting framework scheduled for this fall. Montgomery & Associates are currently under-budget, Tim Leo of M&A said it will probably be a few months before we can start seeing calibrated results.

The next report Mr. Fukuda provided was on the Proposition 68 Planning Grant. He noted that the Grant Administration is ongoing. Mr. Fukuda said we received a reimbursement for SkyTEM, about \$60,000 per GSA. Next, Mr. Fukuda provided a Well Monitoring Data Collection update. Some information on the East Side but right now Mid-Kaweah is working with M&A on reviewing and assessing our current issues with the Representative Monitoring Well Network. No data have been collected yet because needs to verify wells meet criteria representing the MKGSA spatially (laterally and aquifer specific) and temporally. Mr. Fukuda said the Well Metering Pilot Program is on schedule. Fresno State University (FSU) received all the equipment and tested it. However, did note that instead of going out into the field and implementing some field trials FSU will be taking some of the equipment and running it in a non-uniform installation, due to cost and timing.

Mr. Fukuda gave an update on Prop 68 Implementation Grant. Round 1 award decisions were released on 04/26/2021. We received our full amount requested of \$3,766,400 for 5 projects, most of the grant funds were awarded to serve Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). Project 2 is the Mid-Kaweah Okieville Recharge Basin Project which will receive \$1,881,900. We will need to pay \$641,300 for local cost share, roughly a third of the project total. Round 2 of Prop 68 grants should be coming out early 2022, the MKGSA is taking a proactive approach, compiling and developing a list of potential projects that meet those criteria in preparation for the call for proposals.

For the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy, the consultant began distributing chapters. They've been reviewed and so far with few comments, nothing major. The deadline for the final draft has been extended.

The Water Marketing Strategy committee has been established and already met for kickoff meetings. The committee developed a request for proposals (RFP) to select a consultant to develop the Kaweah Subbasin water market. Five proposals have been received and 3 consultants scored high enough for an in-person interview. Interviews will be held on May 19th, 2021 over at the City of Visalia Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Fukuda gave an overview of the Kaweah Water Foundation (CVSALTS). Early action plans have been submitted but have not heard anything back yet.

Mr. Fukuda finished his Kaweah Subbasin report by providing an update on the Stanford SkyTEM project. SkyTEM continue to meet and are making good progress. We should have a model delivered again at the end of the year with an integrated subsidence package in the groundwater model

7. MKGSA GSP REVIEW

Mr. Fukuda provided an update. DWR has noted that they are on schedule to meet their end-of-the-year deadlines. He also stated that DWR should be delivering the first round of assessments for GSPs this summer, and the MKGSA may receive their assessment by the end of 2021. GSAs are given a 180 days window to address GSP deficiencies before a final determination of SGMA compliance is reached. Mr. Fukuda is assembling a team to anticipate and proactively address concerns of any GSP deficiencies before the MKGSA assessment is delivered.

GSP Implementation – Update

Mr. Fukuda then provided a report on the MKGSA 2021 Workplan. He noted he worked with Montgomery & Associates at a previous meeting on what we needed to focus on, our priorities, which are Groundwater Modeling, Water Accounting Framework, Monitoring Network Refinement and Sustainability Projects.

8. Mr. Fukuda provided a presentation on the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley and the MKGSA Water Rights Workshop. He reviewed the Water Accounting Framework’s three buckets where our groundwater is going into: Native, Foreign, and Salvaged.

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

Mr. Fukuda presented results from the spring 2021 groundwater data summary. The results were grim, the MKGSA lost roughly 23 feet over the last year. As for MKGSA Projects and Management Actions, the state is in early discussions on investing \$3.4 billion in water infrastructure. Other funding opportunities in the near future include: (1) Proposition 68 Round 2 (2) Drinking Water and Wastewater Act, a \$35 billion to update and repair aging infrastructure.

10. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Wilbur adjourned the meeting and noted the next meeting would be held on June 1, 2021.

Advisory Committee Chair

Attest:

GSA Board Secretary