



Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Advisory Committee Meeting

March 5, 2019 – 3:00 pm

City of Visalia Wastewater Treatment Plant– 7579 Ave 288
Visalia, CA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments
3. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on February 5, 2019
4. Outreach Activities – Status Report
 - a. Outreach Presentation Meetings to-date
 - b. Joint Outreach Meetings w/ Greater Kaweah GSA
5. GSP Internal/External Review & Approval Process
6. Kaweah Basin Setting
 - a. Status of Draft Document and Review Process
 - b. Water Budget Segregation
7. Committee Composition & Representation
 - a. Joint Powers Agreement
 - b. Board Policy
 - c. Current Membership & Affiliations
8. Committee Member Reports, Updates or Other Items of Interest
9. Adjourn: Next Regular Meeting – April 2, 2019

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

MINUTES

February 5, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.
City of Visalia Waste Water Treatment Plant
7579 Ave 288 – Visalia, CA

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Boyes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: None

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Paul Hendrix (GSA Manager), Aaron Fukuda, Leslie Caviglia, Craig Moyle (Stantec)

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Liesbet Olaerts, Eric Osterling, Bob Ludekens, Fred Mason, Geoff Vanden Huevel

1. **CALL TO REGULAR ORDER**

The meeting was opened by Chairman Wilbur at 3:07 p.m. Self-introductions of the Committee members, GSA member staff and general public were made.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments from any members of the public were given.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

B. Wilbur asked if any Committee members had changes to submit regarding the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 3, 2019. E. Henry asked if the concept of safe yield as indicated in the minutes or sustainable yield was the meaning as used by GEI in their presentation. After further discussion and no specific changes being offered, upon the motion of M. Lane and second by R. Garcia, the minutes were approved for filing.

4. **ESSAYS ON WATER**

L. Caviglia proceeded with an overview of Visalia's municipal operations as they relate to water management. Referring to several visual projections, she discussed water consumption by sector, noting that industrial uses amount to only 2% of the total. She further summarized existing water management agreements with Tulare ID and Kaweah Delta WCD, storm water basins, recharge basins and grant funding, upgrades to the City's WWTP, and new state requirements concerning water conservation. Future conservation received discussion among Committee members related to estimates of savings and potential outdoor landscape ordinances.

5. **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

C. Moyle discussed responses to the stakeholder survey and use and features of the Groundwater Communications Portal (GCP). J. Snyder offered suggestions as to its applicability, and B. Wilbur asked about the stakeholder database embedded therein. P. Hendrix noted the potential

for the GCP to be used for dissemination of the GSP and during its implementation for continued stakeholder outreach. S. Mulholland commented that, surprisingly, many in the agricultural community still are not aware of SGMA and its implications to the region. Mr. Moyle continued with a review of outreach meetings and presentations being scheduled and comments were received by the Committee regarding some of this material. Mr. Moyle concluded with a description of planned joint outreach meetings with Greater Kaweah GSA to envelop stakeholders within the same Hydrogeologic Zone as previously mapped by GEI.

6. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA

Sustainability Goal and Undesirable Results – P. Hendrix called attention to the revised draft of the Sustainability Goal and Undesirable Results statement, noting the latest changes to the water quality section thereof. Discussion ensued, and M. Lane pointed out an infusion of money for small-community assistance from the Governor’s budget proposal, and he further noted that treatment will likely be the answer for groundwater not meeting potable standards. E. Henry commented on the differences between MCLs and public health goals and the costs of achieving these; S. Mulholland noted the adverse consequences of recharge and nitrate flushing in the wrong areas; E. Furtado brought up the need to monitor future water quality; Mr. Lane added that he views the primary responsibility of a GSA is to raise water levels; J. Snyder noted that the language is a goal statement but not an absolute commitment. At the conclusion of discussions, the Chair asked for a Committee action regarding the language as currently worded. Upon the motion of M. Lane, seconded by E. Henry and unanimously carried, the Sustainability Goal and Undesirable Results statement was approved in its current form for presentation to the GSA Board.

Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds – P. Hendrix next reviewed the approach previously discussed with the Committee to be embraced in identifying Minimum Thresholds for each of the four Hydrogeologic Zones within the GSA. G. Vanden Huevel commented that some of these Zone trend lines differ significantly amongst each other, and that the arrest of the downward trends to be afforded by Projects has yet to be determined. L. Olaerts asked if the trend line was to be considered as a starting point in setting the Thresholds or will they be established as is, to which Mr. Hendrix responded that they will serve as the Threshold value, to be coupled with the Management Actions to maintain Measurable Objectives and the provision of targeted assistance measures.

7. PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

P. Hendrix presented an overview of the latest listing of Projects and Management Actions that are being included in the GSP and the methodology to determine their estimated benefits. He then reviewed the previously discussed approach of determining Measurable Objectives as the product of benefits provided by these Projects and their respective readiness for operation. He lastly reviewed the next steps in completing this section of the GSP and presentation before the Board.

8. KAWEAH BASIN SETTING

Draft Document – P. Hendrix reviewed the Basin Setting technical document and its requested revisions from the Kaweah Sub-Basin Technical Team to be undertaken in the near future. He also noted that the water budget and depiction of its current conditions as called for in DWR’s GSP Regulations will utilize the historic period 1997-2017 as the basis therefor.

Water Budget Segregation – P. Hendrix discussed a schematic displaying how the subbase water budget will be parsed among the three GSAs in keeping with groundwater legal terminology and technical means to separate various water budget components in recognition of groundwater rights holders and appropriators providing recharge accruals to the aquifer system.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS, UPDATES

B. Wilbur announced that Irene Lemons has resigned from the Committee due to other pressing obligations of hers and that a solicitation effort is ongoing to find a replacement for the resulting vacancy.

10. ADJOURN

Chairman Wilbur noted that the next regularly scheduled committee meeting is set to be held on March 5, 2019. There being no other matters to come before the Committee, Mr. Wilbur adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Advisory Committee Chair

Attest:

GSA Board Secretary



Advisory Committee Members

B. Wilbur – Chair J. Nichols – Vice Chair

- Mark Boyes – At-large, Tulare (ag.-related business)
- Lee Johnson – At-large, Visalia (Enviro. Health Officer)
- Eric Furtado – At-large, Visalia (Calif. Water Service Co.)
- Richard Garcia – Environmental, Visalia (Sierra Club)
- Mike Lane – At-large, Tulare (Building Industry Assn.)
- Sopac Mulholland – Environmental, Visalia (Sequoia Riverlands Trust)
- Jim Nichols – Agriculture, Tulare (Nichols Farms)
- Jessi Snyder – DAC, Visalia (Self-Help Enterprises)
- Blake Wilbur – Agriculture, Tulare (SBS Ag.)
- Edward Henry – At-large, Tulare (retired, CA Dept. of Food & Ag.)
 - One open seat remains on the Committee

Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Committee Policy

Management Committee – The Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Joint Powers Authority (JPA) calls for the Board to create a Management Committee Comprised of one staff member from each agency. The Manager of each agency shall appoint one staff member (which may be the Manager) to serve on the Management Committee, and one alternate who may vote in the absence of the regular Management Committee Member's.

Technical Committee – The JPA also indicates that the Management Committee may establish a Technical Committee. This committee is to be comprised of professionals (staff members, consultants or professionals with unique knowledge of the groundwater hydrology of the Mid-Kaweah) with the technical knowledge, skills and abilities to review and provide comment and recommendations on the technical data the Board will need to utilize to develop the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The composition, number of members and meeting schedule is at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Advisory Committee – The Advisory Committee will be comprised of a minimum of seven and a maximum of eleven voting members appointed by the Mid-Kaweah GSA Board. The Committee may be comprised of up to three members representing the agricultural community, up to three members representing other government agencies that operate within the Mid-Kaweah GSA, up to three members representing environmental interests and/or disadvantaged communities, and the remainder shall be at-large members. A majority plus one of the number of members officially appointed to the Advisory Committee will constitute quorum. Meetings will be held on-call, but no fewer than three meetings a year will be held. The term for the Advisory Committee Members will be three years. Members are eligible to serve up to three terms providing they attend at least half of the meetings held during their term. If there are an odd number of meetings, for example three, they must have attended at last two of the meetings to be eligible for reappointment. If a Committee member misses three consecutive meetings, they will be replaced on the Committee. This Committee will function accordance with the provisions of the Brown Act.

People interested in serving on the Advisory Committee must be residents or associated with a business in the Mid-Kaweah area. Interested parties should apply to be on the Advisory Committee. All applications will be reviewed by the Management Committee who will make recommendations for appointment to the GSA Board.

- 1 and filed with the governing body of each party, as soon as practicable after
2 each meeting.
- 3 g. **RULES:** The Board shall adopt such other rules and regulations for the conduct
4 of its business as a GSA and in the implementation of any GSP as it shall deem
5 necessary or desirable consistent with the provisions of this Agreement and the
6 Act.
- 7 h. **OFFICERS:** The officers of the Authority shall be a Chairperson, and
8 Vice-Chairperson, and such other officers as the Board shall designate. The
9 election of officers will take place at the first meeting of a new fiscal year. The
10 Treasurer shall be formally designated by a resolution adopted by the Board of
11 Directors stating the effective date of the appointment and the term of the
12 appointment.
- 13 i. **ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** The Board shall create an Advisory Committee for
14 the purpose of soliciting information from the Other Kaweah Agencies and
15 potentially affected stakeholders utilizing groundwater within the jurisdictional
16 boundaries of the Members and potentially subject to the GSP to be developed
17 by the Authority. Membership on the Advisory Committee and the time/date for
18 meetings shall be at the discretion of the Board.
- 19 j. **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:** The Board shall create a Management
20 Committee for the purpose of overseeing all activities undertaken in pursuit of
21 the goals and objectives of the Authority identified in this Agreement, and for
22 reporting upon same to the Board. The Management Committee shall be
23 comprised of one staff person from each of the Members. The Management
24 Committee shall, among other things, be responsible for the approval of all
25 expenditures authorized by the Board through their approval of budget
26 appropriations as required herein. The Management Committee may also