

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

MINUTES

May 5, 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-

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Henry, Blake Wilbur, Mike Lane, Eric Furtado,
Jessi Snyder, James Nichols, Soapy Mulholland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Garcia, Lee Johnson, Mark Boyes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: None

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda (Interim General Manager), Trisha Whitfield, Leslie
Caviglia, Valerie Kincaid (MKGSA General Counsel), Marco
Crenshaw (Tulare ID Watermaster)

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Geoffery Vanden Heuvel, Stacie Ann Silva

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 minutes of the special meeting held February 4, 2020. A motion and second were made by M. Lane and Jessi Snyder, respectively, to approve the minutes as presented.

4. MKGSA GENERAL MANAGER SEARCH

Mr. Fukuda noted to the Committee that the MKGSA Board directed staff at the March Board meeting to solicit a full-time general manager, however upon the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the MKGSA Board felt it was appropriate to postpone the search. Mr. Fukuda then reported that he was appointed as the Interim General Manager until the search for a general manager resumed, and a full-time general manager could be appointed.

5. MKGSA HYDRGEOLOGIST CONSULTANT SEARCH

Mr. Fukuda reported that he was working with Montgomery and Associates, a firm that specializes in water resources, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and has worked within the Kaweah Subbasin to establish a master services agreement to provide consulting services to the MKGSA. One of the principal consultants with the firm Derrick Williams introduced himself to the Committee and noted his excitement to be working with the MGKSA and the Advisory Committee.

6. MKGSA GSP SUBMITTAL

Mr. Fukuda began the report by noting that the comment period for the MKGSA GSP had been extended to June 3, 2020, and that one comment letter had been submitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. He thereupon noted that this comment period was different than the previous comment period on the MKGSA GSP, in that these comments were submitted to DWR, and the MKGSA can only provide comment letters that try to address other comment letters. Ms. Kincaid provided a summary of the comments in the CDFW letter and noted that it was likely that a comment letter would be provided. Chair Wilbur asked to have the CDFW letter projected via the teleconference link, which Mr. Fukuda so did. Mr. Fukuda and Ms. Kincaid went through the comment letter and noted the comments provided by CDFW.

7. KAWEAH SUBBASIN ANNUAL PLAN

Mr. Fukuda reported that the 2020 Kaweah Subbasin Annual Plan had been submitted to DWR on April 30, 2020. He thereupon summarized some of the findings within the annual report, highlighting that the average overdraft from 2015 to 2019 was 26,000 acre-feet.

8. REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY FORECAST

Mr. Crenshaw provided a water supply forecast noting the water supplies projected for the Kaweah Watershed and the San Joaquin River Watershed.

9. EAST KAWEAH GSA REGIONAL CONSERVATION INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Mr. Fukuda provided a report on the EKGSA RCIS program, noting that the program will develop a strategy for fallowing farm ground in the Kaweah Subbasin. He emphasized that fallowing ground within the MKGSA was a last resort tool to achieve sustainability, but for the remainder of the basin, it would be an essential tool. He lastly reported that the MKGSA had appointed himself and Dave Martin (MKGSA Board Member) to sit on the RCIS Committee to oversee the development of the strategy.

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

No reports were given

11. ADJOURN

There being no other matters to come before the Committee, Mr. Wilbur adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Advisory Committee Chair

Attest:

GSA Board Secretary