

NOTICE MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given that an East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency's **Advisory Committee** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.** at the Exeter Courthouse Museum located at 125 South B Street, Exeter, CA 93221.

Public Participation –Members of the Public may directly address the Advisory Committee on any item of interest to the public within the Committee's subject matter jurisdiction before or during the Committee's consideration of the item. Request to keep comments to a maximum of five minutes. (If assistance is required—please contact the office prior to the meeting so that arrangements can be made.)

Such assistance includes appropriate alternate formats for the agendas and agenda packets used for any public meetings of the Authority. Requests for such assistance and for agendas and agenda packets shall be made in person, by telephone, facsimile, or written correspondence to the East Kaweah Joint Powers Authority office at least 48 hours before a public Authority meeting.

AGENDA

- 1. Roll Call and Introductions**
- 2. Approve the Agenda**
- 3. Public Comment**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
- 5. EKGSA Activity Report- Michael Hagman**
 - a. Technical Committee
 - b. Board of Directors
- 6. Kaweah Sub-Basin Activity Report- Michael Hagman**
 - a. Presentation/Proposal: Sub-basin water market grant (Aaron Fukuda, TID)
 - b. Regional Conservation Investment Strategy
 - c. Kaweah Sub-Basin Management Team Efforts
 - d. Other Sub-Basin Activity
- 7. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation**
 - a. Report on GSP release
 - b. Policy Matrix
 - c. Outreach Efforts
 - i. Public Reporting and Future Forums
 - d. Timeline and Next Steps
- 8. Other Miscellaneous**
- 9. Adjournment**

**EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON JUNE 17, 2019**

The East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“EKGSA”) Advisory Committee duly met for a meeting on Monday, June 17, 2019, at the Exeter Courthouse Museum, located at 125 South B Street, Exeter, CA 93221.

OPEN SESSION: Convened at 4: 05 p.m.

1. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Joe Ferrara (non-voting), Matthew Watkins, Adrianna Renteria, Soapy Mulholland, Joe Russell, Carole Combs, Dan Dreyer, Vito DeLeonardis, and Alan Lombardi. (Quorum = 6 voting members)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Graham Burt, Cruz Rivera,

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Hagman, Executive Director; Trilby Barton and Matt Klinchuch, Provost & Pritchard; various members of the public.

2. **APPROVE THE AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Russell, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Matthew Watkins, Adrianna Renteria, Soapy Mulholland, Joe Russell, Carole Combs, Dan Dreyer, Vito DeLeonardis, Alan Lombardi.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Graham Burt, Cruz Rivera.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

4. **MINUTES:** Motion to approve and ratify minutes with the corrections made from the May 20, 2019 Advisory Committee meeting, was made by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Lombardi, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Matthew Watkins, Adrianna Renteria, Soapy Mulholland, Joe Russell, Carole Combs, Dan Dreyer, Vito DeLeonardis, Alan Lombardi.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Graham Burt, Cruz Rivera.

5. **EKGSA ACTIVITY REPORT:**

a. Technical Committee – The Executive Director reported on the TAC efforts. He noted that the AC will be reviewing a Sustainable Management Criteria Policy matrix developed by the TAC. This will be worked on later in the meeting.

b. Board of Directors – The Executive Director reported there would be a special Board of Directors meeting on June 24 to give Staff direction on GSP policy issues. He also reported that the regular meeting of the EKGSA Board on July 22nd will be considering a draft public release of the GSP.

6. **KAWEAH SUB-BASIN ACTIVITY REPORT:**

- a. Kaweah Sub-Basin Management Team - The Executive Director provided a report.
- b. Other Sub-Basin Activity – No report

7. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN EFFORTS:

- a. GSP Development and Chapter Review: Matt Klinchuch provided a status report and potential timeline for upcoming activities.
- b. Sustainability Management Criteria
 - i. Minimum Thresholds Map – The AC was presented with the groundwater elevation threshold regions map. This map described the groundwater elevation conditions in calendar year 2040 with no action taken and assuming 100% of hydrology. After considerable discussion the following action was taken: Concur with the EKGSA TAC and recommend the minimum thresholds map as provided for setting the minimum thresholds – Renteria/Watkins (M/S) and passed unanimously by those present
 - ii. Sustainability Matrix – Hagman/Klinchuch presented the “Sustainable Management Criteria Policy Matrix” (SMCPM) to the AC that was developed in coordination with the TAC and approved by the TAC. The SMCPM provided needed policy for the AC to recommend to the Board of directors for developing the EKGSA criteria for each of the Undesirable Results (UR) that will be addressed in the EKGSA. This included Definition, Minimum Thresholds, Definition, Measurement Methodology, Minimum Threshold, Measurable Objectives, and Interim Milestones. The AC decided to address the SMCPM in three actions:

Action #1 – That the UR Groundwater Storage and Surface Water/Groundwater Interconnected use Groundwater Elevation as proxy for those observations. That the map indicates impacts to wells based on purpose of the well (Public, Domestic or Ag). That the Measurable Objective be set at the Spring 2017 measurements, and to Concur with the EKGSA TAC and recommend the Sustainable Management Criteria Policy Matrix as modified herein – Mulholland/Lombardi (M/S) and passed by unanimous vote of those present.

Action #2 – Land Subsidence UR as provided in the SMCPM: Watkins/Lombardi (M/S) and passed by unanimous vote of those present.

Action #3 – Groundwater Quality UR as provided in the SMCPM: Watkins/Dreyer (M/S) and passed by unanimous vote of those present. There was however concern provided by the members of the AC on several areas in the approach as follows:

- I. Recommendation that verbiage be added similar to “no degradation caused by groundwater pumping” as well as recharge efforts.
- II. Can the WQ map provide an area of concern around communities and the GSA take more aggressive actions when 75% of threshold is approached or where those areas already exceed the MCL?
- III. Consider the MCL and the rate of change in the SMC’s.

Hagman explained that these concerns will be provided to the EKGSA Board and back to the TAC for review and consideration of how they may be addressed in the GSP itself.

- iii. Management Areas – Hagman/Klinchuch provided the management areas map as developed in coordination with the EKGSA TAC. After considerable discussion, the following action was taken: Recommend to the Board of Directors to adopt a “Two Management” area approach as opposed to the nine provided by the TAC. Watkins/DeLeonardis (M/S) and the motion passed on a 6/2 vote.

The AC wanted the Board to know that the reason for this departure from the TAC recommendation is for two reasons:

1. Nine areas, as provided, could make it so the Districts could ostensibly control where groundwater may or may not go. Hagman noted that individuals hold groundwater rights not the Districts. However, where provided by the law, federal contract and the Kaweah Sub-basin Water Accounting Framework, groundwater inflows from those surface water sources could be directed by the entity that has rights to the supply.
2. To many areas to manage would be difficult to administer. Hagman noted that the Federal Districts already provide the bulk of information for their areas that will be used to understand the demand of groundwater supply and the districts don’t want to be saddled with the cost of other areas that do not already collect this data.

Hagman explained that these objections will be provided to the EKGSA Board of Directors along with the recommended AC Management Areas map.

- iv. Sub-basin Coordination Agreement – Hagman noted that the Agreement will be an appendix to the GSP. He indicated that there has been significant work on the document and much more is needed. There are likely very few areas of concern at this point because the more contentious aspects (water accounting framework) have been largely addressed.
- c. Outreach Efforts
 - i. Future Public Forums: Trilby Barton provided information regarding four upcoming “post draft release” public forums.
 - d. Timeline and Next Steps

8. OTHER MISCELLANEOUS: None provided

9. ADJOURNMENT: A quorum having been lost earlier in the meeting, there was no motion to adjourn. Therefore, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 6:16 p.m.