

**EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON APRIL 19, 2021**

The East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“EKGSA”) Advisory Committee duly met for a meeting on Monday, April 19, 2021, via video/phone conference only – COVID-19 protocol.

OPEN SESSION: Convened at 4:12 p.m.

1. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Joe Ferrara (non-voting), Soapy Mulholland, Matthew Watkins, Alan Lombardi, Carole Combs, Vito DeLeonardis (4:45), Blanca Escobedo and Luis Sanchez-Balle. (Quorum = 7 voting members)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Powers, Graham Burt

OTHERS PRESENT: Director Caudillo, Director Craig Hornung, Michael Hagman, Executive Director; Matt Klinchuch, Provost & Pritchard; Cruz Romero, Staff Engineer; and Kathy Bennett, Senior Analyst; various members of the public.

2. **APPROVE THE AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Mulholland, seconded by Ms. Combs, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Soapy Mulholland, Matthew Watkins, Alan Lombardi, Carol Combs, Vito DeLeonardis, Blanca Escobedo and Luis Sanchez-Balle.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Jeff Powers, Graham Burt

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment

4. **MINUTES:** Motion to approve and ratify minutes February 16, 2021 Advisory Committee meeting, was made by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Ms. Mulholland, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Soapy Mulholland, Matthew Watkins, Alan Lombardi, Carol Combs, Vito DeLeonardis, Blanca Escobedo and Luis Sanchez-Balle.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Jeff Powers, Graham Burt

5. **EKGSA ACTIVITY REPORT:**

- a. Technical Committee – Klinchuch reported the Annual Report was reviewed and submitted April 1st. Hagman discussed the results of the recent three Board workshops. The TAC met on February 5th and focused on recent Grant application and round 2 of implementation efforts.

- b. Board of Directors – Hagman reported that the Board met on January 25th and provided an overview of the meeting. There is discussion of having a Board study session. Next regularly scheduled meeting is April 26, 2021.

6. KAWEAH SUB-BASIN ACTIVITY REPORT:

- a. WCB Grant – RCIS: Hagman presented a status update of the grant
- b. Prop 68 – Planning: Hagman presented a status update of the grant
- c. Kaweah Sub-Basin Management Team – Klinchuch reported that the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs had submitted a grant to the Department of Water Resources (Prop 68 Grant). He noted that it was successfully submitted on January 8 and the Kaweah Subbasin proposal was funded about \$3.78 million. However, some folks have questioned the scoring and have asked the State to go back and “sharpen their pencils”. We expect to know by the end of April if there were any changes to our award.

Director Hornung asked the AC to consider recommendation of Basin Level reporting to provide and unified perspective on the basin condition. Also recommended that the AC recommend using the member agencies to deliver information to the public. Especially with regard to the status of basin objectives relative to the groundwater sustainability plan.

7. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

- a. Land IQ Report and David’s Engineering Report, YTD information: Klinchuch noted there was no update on Annual Report at this time and Romero provided YTD information from LandIQ.
- b. Policy Matrix – The Board has decided to tackle some priorities at this time. Further development on the policies will be put on hold till the Board directs the Committees on these activities.
- c. Methods of Allocation – Hagman reported that this issue will be the same at the Policy Matrix. The Board will give us direction after it meets next month. Several discussions ensued regarding water rights, allocations, and methods. Chair Ferrara allowed members of the committee and public share their concerns. He noted they would be considered in future discussions after direction from the Board.
- d. Outreach Efforts:
 - i. Public Reporting and Future Forums – No activity

- 8. Timeline and Next Steps – Monday, May 17, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. is the next scheduled Advisory Committee meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. (Lombardi/Mulholland)

Michael D. Hagman
Secretary, East Kaweah GSA