

**EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 20, 2018

The East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“EKGSA”) Advisory Committee duly met for a meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at the City of Lindsay Wellness Center located at 860 N. Sequoia, Lindsay, CA 93247.

OPEN SESSION: Convened at 4:06 p.m.

- 1. MEMBERS PRESENT:** Adriana Renteria, Carlos Bravo, Graham Burt, Matthew Watkins, Joe Russell, Alan Lombardi, Carole Combs, Vito DeLeonardi, Soapy Mullholand (entered during Agenda Item 6)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Dreyer, Cruz Rivera

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Hagman, Executive Director (Chaired the meeting in the absence of Director Ferrara); Ravi Patel, Legal Counsel; Trilby Barton, Provost & Pritchard; various members of the public.

- 2. APPROVE THE AGENDA:**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Watkins, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Renteria, Bravo, Burt, Watkins, Russell, Lombardi, Combs, DeLeonardis

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dreyer, Rivera, Mullholand

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

- 4. MINUTES:**

Motion to approve and ratify minutes from the December 2017 and January 2018 Advisory Committee meetings was made by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Watkins, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Renteria, Bravo, Burt, Watkins, Russell, Lombardi, Combs, DeLeonardis

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dreyer, Rivera, Mullholand

5. EKGSA ACTIVITY REPORT:

A. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Executive Director reported that a meeting of the technical committee had not been held since the last advisory committee meeting because of scheduling conflicts.

B. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Executive Director reported that there had been no activity by the Board of Directors since the January meeting, but that a special meeting of the Board of Directors was being considered.

6. KAWEAH SUB-BASIN ACTIVITY REPORT:

The Executive Director reported that a proposal was made to the subbasin management team for SkyTEM, a geophysical survey company, to perform an aerial survey of the subbasin. Funding from the state may be available to reduce the direct cost to the GSA.

Members advised that the GSA should have a thorough understanding of the likelihood of state funding before committing EKGSA funds, and should know to what extent the acquired data could or would be useful for the GSA's purposes.

The Executive Director also reported that the three subbasin GSAs have had initial discussions regarding the allocation of basin sustainable yield.

7. COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN, UPDATES AND AMENDMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

Trilby Barton of Provost & Pritchard presented a draft stakeholder survey, draft informational flyer, and two memos regarding comments received from the Board of Directors and Self-Help Center regarding the EKGSA's Communications and Engagement Plan.

During discussion of this item, the Committee also had discussions about the impact and technical requirements of SGMA. The Executive Director and Legal Counsel responded to questions from the Committee.

A. STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

Committee members suggested considering the following changes:

- Question 8: Revise to ask whether stakeholder uses irrigation water for frost protection, in part to avoid citrus farmers feeling singled out;

- Question 1: Spell out “SGMA”;
- Question 5: Allow more space for stakeholders who may have more than one well; ask for further information on date/circumstances on dry wells;
- Question 6: Consider that satisfaction with adequacy of water supply changes year-to-year, and may have a different meaning for agricultural and domestic users.

The Committee discussed, in general, concerns that stakeholders may have with privacy. The Committee discussed adding notes to the survey indicating that the survey was voluntary, may be subject to a Public Records Act Request, and alternative means for stakeholders to identify their interest in SGMA.

B. FACT SHEET

The Committee discussed several potential suggested changes to language, and how changes would be received by the local community, including:

- Emphasizing EKGSA’s contact information and meeting times/places;
- Supplying common water savings tips for domestic users;
- Revising text to clarify that certain concerns of the impact of SGMA affect all water users, not just “rural communities/DACs”;
- Emphasizing the need for further imported water to support local agriculture and communities.

C. COMMENTS PROVIDED

Comments previously provided by Self-Help Enterprises and the Board of Directors were summarized by Ms. Barton.

A representative from Self-Help Enterprises provided further clarification of comments provided. In particular, the relationship between rural communities, County of Tulare, and organizations like Self-Help Enterprises in seeking funding and support for infrastructure projects was clarified.

8. GROUNDWATER RIGHTS, QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

This item was tabled for consideration at a future meeting.

9. OTHER MISCELLANEOUS:

No report, no action taken.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Watkins seconded by Mr. Russell and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Renteria, Bravo, Burt, Watkins, Russell, Lombardi, Combs, Mulholland,
DeLeonardis

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dreyer, Rivera

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.