

**MID-KINGS RIVER GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017**

Chair McCutcheon called the regular meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** David Ayers; Barry McCutcheon, Chair,  
Michael Murray, Vice-Chair

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Steven P. Dias

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dennis Mills, Secretary;  
Ray Carlson, Legal Counsel;  
Shawn Corely, Lakeside IWD;  
Dusty Ference, Kings Co. Farm Bureau  
Lou Camara, City of Hanford;  
Abigail Solis, Self-Help Enterprises

**ESTABLISH QUORUM**

It was determined that a quorum was present at the meeting.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 5, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Chair McCutcheon asked if there was a motion regarding the minutes circulated in this month's Board packets. Director Ayers made a motion to approve the January 5, 2017 minutes. Vice-Chair Murray seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of January 5, 2017. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

**AYES:** David Ayers, Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAINED:** None

**ABSENT:** Steven P. Dias

**APPROVAL OF LETTER FROM COUNSEL RE LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

Consistent with discussions in previous Board meetings Attorney Carlson submitted two copies of a letter dated April 11, 2017 and titled "Representation and Conflict Waiver" to the Board for their consideration. The letter related to the legal issues associated with Griswold LaSalle attorneys representing Kings CWD, the City of Hanford and the Mid-Kings River GSA

(concurrent representation). Attorney Carlson reviewed the material presented in the letter and then asked for the Board to consider authorizing Chair McCutcheon to sign both copies of the letter on behalf of the Mid-Kings River GSA. Vice Chair Murray made that motion, it was seconded by Director Ayers and the Board unanimously authorized Chair McCutcheon to sign both copies of the letter on behalf of the Mid-Kings River GSA. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: David Ayers, Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray

NOES: None

ABSTAINED:None

ABSENT: Steven P. Dias

Chair McCutcheon took a moment after the vote to sign both copies of the letter, giving one to Secretary Mills and one to Attorney Carlson.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Secretary Mills reported that since the last GSA Board meeting he had received a request by Kings River Conservation District for a number of their staff to be added to the list of persons that receives GSA Board agendas. Also he reported that Eric Ward had requested a meeting to better understand progress toward SGMA implementation in the area.

### **MAPPING ADJUSTMENTS TO GSA SERVICE AREA & RECENT GSA SUBMITTALS**

Secretary Mills reported that in the Mid-Kings River GSA's Notice of Intent to the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) it was stated that it was not the intent of the Mid-Kings River GSA to overlap other GSA efforts. However as other GSA areas have been submitted to DWR a few small areas of mapping conflict have been identified. Secretary Mills used a service area map to point out four locations that have been identified. Each area appears to be unintentional and is associated with the way parties interpreted available information. It was also discussed that Attorney Carlson had reviewed the matter and did not view these minor mapping adjustments as a material change to the Mid-Kings River GSA's Notice of Intent to DWR. Consistent with this Secretary Mills requested that the Board consider approving these minor boundary edits and allowing Secretary Mills to adjust them administratively through the resubmittal of an adjusted GIS shapefile. Vice Chair Murray made that motion, it was seconded by Director Ayers and the Board unanimously authorized the minor boundary edits and authorized Secretary Mills to adjust them administratively through the resubmittal of an adjusted GIS shapefile. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: David Ayers, Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray

NOES: None

ABSTAINED:None

ABSENT: Steven P. Dias

Secretary Mills then generally reviewed with the Board current areas of overlap and white area in the Tulare Lake subbasin as well as the potential impacts of those “unmanaged areas” if they are not resolved prior to June 30, 2017. The most significant issue is that if a subbasin has “unmanaged areas”, the State Board may designate the entire subbasin probationary. If that is done it would require all groundwater pumpers in the subbasin to pay a \$300 per well registration fee and pay a groundwater pumping rate of \$40/AF to the State Board. Secretary Mills relayed that he would be trying to meet with other Tulare Lake GSA representatives later this month to discuss this issue and learn more about progress towards its resolution.

### **KCWD KINGS RIVER FLOODWATER BASINS**

Secretary Mills reported that the Kings River flood release started on January 27 and is projected to last into July. As reported in his update, Pine Flat was releasing 9,140 CFS, there was roughly 1,000 CFS of loss in the system, flows downstream of Army Weir were 320 CFS, 3,800 CFS was being diverted by other River Units, and James Bypass flows were 3,880 CFS. Kings County recently restricted access to the Kings River for safety reasons. Kings CWD dropped its price for rented water to \$0/AF to encourage growers to take as much water as possible. Kings CWD is reviewing that decision each month. In the Mid-Kings River GSA area, Peoples Ditch Company delivered 1,500 AF in January, 15,800 AF in February and 21,400 AF in March for a total of 38,700 AF. Also Last chance Water Ditch Company delivered 1,200 AF in January, 4,700 AF in February and 8,100 AF in March for a total of 14,000 AF.

Secretary Mills reported that at the Kings CWD April Board meeting the District set a goal of developing 500 acres of additional basins to take advantage of Kings River floodwater over the next five years. The effort is to try to maximize the use of available Kings River floodwater in order to offset potential SGMA impacts.

During the discussion, Director Ayers asked if the eventual Mid-Kings River GSA effort would be to stabilize groundwater levels at some elevation. Secretary Mills explained that in his view the effort would not be tied to a specific elevation, but the elevations over a cycle of wet and dry years. Because our area swings so widely between wet and dry years, the hope is that GSAs can set elevation targets that won't overreact to conditions in either wet or dry years.

Secretary Mills also discussed an idea related to 1,600 acres of property that the City of Hanford owns south of Kansas Avenue. He described a potential to construct earthen levees around the property in order to use it to also take advantage of Kings River floodwater. The concept could be pursued with grant funds using the property as the local cost share. Manager Mills relayed that he would be discussing the concept with City of Hanford staff to develop the concept further. Chair McCutcheon relayed that he had farmed some ground near that particular location and that in some places there were sandy streaks. Lou Camara mentioned that after the threat of rain is reduced the City's stormwater basins could also be delivered Kings River floodwater.

## **STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE FORMATION**

Secretary Mills briefly read the portion of the JPA document that refers to the formation of two standing committees, one being the Stakeholder Committee. He relayed that although the goal had been to develop the Stakeholder Committee within the first 120 days after the JPA was formed, events during the water year had not allowed that. However, Secretary Mills asked the Board to consider 1) authorizing him to develop a Stakeholder Committee member application and to make it available for a period of 45 days, and 2) selecting two Board members to work with Secretary Mills on the review of applicants and to make a recommendation on selection back to the full Board. Vice Chair Murray made that motion, it was seconded by Director Ayers and the Board unanimously authorized Secretary Mills to develop a Stakeholder Committee member application and to make it available for a period of 45 days, and for two Board members to work with Secretary Mills on the review of applicants and to make a recommendation on selection back to the Board at a future meeting. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: David Ayers, Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Steven P. Dias

Associated with this action, Chair McCutcheon and Director Ayers volunteered to be the two Board members that would work with Secretary Mills on the effort.

Abigail Solis of Self-Help Enterprises relayed that Self-Help Enterprises' desire is to see disadvantaged community (DAC) involvement wherever possible. Ms. Solis offered her help in communicating the Stakeholder Committee opportunity and also relayed that if DACs were not able to find a local representative that Self-Help Enterprises staff would be willing to serve on their behalf.

## **SUBSIDENCE**

Secretary Mills provided an informational report on mounting evidence of subsidence in the area because it had been in the local papers recently. DWR has produced two recent reports on subsidence in the San Joaquin Valley with both reports using an evaluation of satellite InSAR data. The first report published in August 2015 identified two major subsided areas, the worst near El Nido and the other near Corcoran. The maximum subsidence near Corcoran was estimated to be 37 inches between 2006 - 2010 and an additional 13 inches between 2014 - 2015 (rough total of at least 50 inches in 10 years). The second report published in December 2016 identified the area south of Corcoran as the worst in the Valley. The maximum subsidence near Corcoran was estimated to be 22 inches between 2015 - 2016 (rough total of at least 72 inches, or 6 feet in 11 years).

The Hanford Sentinel reports that Cross Creek Flood Control District made significant subsidence related modifications to their levees near Corcoran in 2015. This year they authorized roughly \$14 million in additional subsidence related modifications over 14 miles of

levees to protect Corcoran. Manager Dustin Fuller described the modifications as bringing the levee back up to elevation 192, being four feet of fill in some locations. However, Corcoran's historic elevation has been 207.

Kings CWD has had to review several design submittals on facilities impacted by planned CHSRA construction. On the design drawings there is a note that mentions that CHSRA acknowledges that elevations have shifted both vertically and horizontally over time. It appears that CHSRA had the project alignment surveyed early in project development. Then the alignment was surveyed again in the fall 2015. The differences between the two surveys were understood as subsidence.

Secretary Mills relayed that subsidence was one of the six impacts that SGMA targeted and that because there is evidence of subsidence in the Mid-Kings River GSA service area it will have to be evaluated and considered through the development of this areas GSP.

### **UPDATE ON COUNTY GROUNDWATER MODEL**

Secretary Mills provided a brief update on the Kings County Groundwater modeling effort. The effort is 100% grant funded through DWR. The period for the groundwater model to evaluate was selected to be 1996 – 2016. There was some discussion about the need to update any model that is developed to include the wet year information from 2017. Secretary Mills reported that Kings CWD had made their groundwater level information available for the effort. Kings County has made their well permit/logs available. Secretary Mills reported that he understood that Hanford has provided groundwater pumping records for the effort and that Corcoran ID has also begun providing available information. Kings CWD recently received access to Tulare County well permits/logs and has made those available. Kings CWD is now working with the modeling consultants to provide surface water delivery information in a form that protects Ditch Company records to the extent possible.

### **EFFORTS TOWARDS GSP DEVELOPMENT**

Secretary Mills reported that he had begun considering the major efforts that would lead to GSP development. In his view the year 2017 would be focused on the County Groundwater Modeling effort, water budget evaluations and trying to decide whether the Tulare Lake subbasin will pursue one or more than one GSP. In 2018 he viewed that the year would include the development of monitoring and reporting schemes as well as projects for development and groundwater management schemes. Then in 2019 the first part of the year would focus on GSP document development and review, then several public meetings would follow in the summer and then in the fall efforts to setup the 2020 monitoring and reporting would be finalized. All of these efforts would be needed in order to adopt a GSP and submit it to DWR for their review prior to the January 2020 deadline.

Abigail Solis relayed that Self-Help Enterprises was working on GSP issues in many different areas and would be willing to aid the Mid-Kings River GSA on topics they specialize in if that was viewed as helpful.

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE**

The regular Mid-Kings River GSA Board meeting for May will be canceled as Secretary Mills is expecting the birth of his fourth child very close to that date. The next regular Mid-Kings River GSA Board meeting is planned for Tuesday June 13, 2017 at 1:00 pm at the Kings County Water District office.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair McCutcheon thanked those that attended the meeting for their participation. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills  
MKR MIN 170411