

**EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON MAY 16, 2022**

The East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“EKGSA”) Advisory Committee duly met for a meeting on Monday, May 16, 2022, via video/phone conference and in person. Public via video/phone conference only – COVID-19 protocol.

OPEN SESSION: Convened at 4:00 p.m.

1. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Joe Ferrara (non-voting), Dee Dee Gruber, Alan Lombardi, Soapy Mulholland, Erick Orellana, Jeff Powers, Luis Sanchez-Balle, Matthew Watkins. (Quorum = 4 voting members)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Graham Burt, Vito DeLeonardis

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Hagman, Executive Director; Matt Klinchuch, Provost & Pritchard; Trilby Barton, Provost & Pritchard; Chris Hunter, Program Manager; Kathy Bennett, Senior Analyst; and various members of the public.

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

AYES: Dee Dee Gruber, Alan Lombardi, Soapy Mulholland, Erick Orellana, Jeff Powers, Luis Sanchez-Balle, Matthew Watkins

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

3. **ABSENT:** Graham Burt, Vito DeLeonardis

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Representatives from Community Water Center noted that they are concerned that the current GSP rewrite efforts will not resolve the issues brought up by the DWR in the GSP determination. In particular CWC noted that allowing 10% of the wells to go dry would be significant and unreasonable. Hagman noted that the determination work group was analyzing mitigation tools as well as setting thresholds at protecting 90% of wells. Such concerns will likely be managed in the mitigation process.

5. **MINUTES:** Motion to approve and ratify the April 18, 2022, minutes of the Advisory Committee meeting was made by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Sanchez-Balle, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Dee Dee Gruber, Alan Lombardi, Soapy Mulholland, Erick Orellana, Jeff Powers, Luis Sanchez-Balle, Matthew Watkins

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Graham Burt, Vito DeLeonardis

6. **EKGSA ACTIVITY REPORT:**

a. Technical Committee – Klinchuch reported on TAC activities which included an update on the subbasin and Management Action Table (matrix).

- b. Board of Directors – Hagman noted the Board of Directors held a Special board meeting on April 25th for the hearing on the Rules and Regulations there was no action taken on the Rules and Regs. The Board also held an Emergency meeting on May 12th to respond to governor’s action on well permitting and adopted option #1 on the form for well permitting.

7. KAWEAH SUB-BASIN ACTIVITY REPORT:

- a. WCB Grant – RCIS: Hagman reported that the RCIS should be finalized by Department of Fish and Wildlife by the middle of August.
- b. Prop 68 – Planning: Hagman reported that Tasks 1 and 3 are completed and that a grant extension and modification were awarded to allow the basin to exchange the “well videoing” with several other needed analysis tools (new wells, ground level measurement equipment, water quality sampling equipment, etc.). All the requested projects were approved, and the grant was extended to February 2023.
- c. Prop 68 – Basin Grant: Hagman reported on the status of the two projects in this grant. Lewis Creek Recharge (LID/EKGSA - \$329,500) and Mariposa Basin Recharge (City of Lindsay/LID - \$650,000).
- d. GSP and Basin Coordination Incomplete: Hagman reported on the GSP rewrite effort. He noted that substantial agreement has been made around the approach to setting minimum threshold for groundwater levels. He noted that the subsidence issue and the interconnected surface water bodies identified in DWR’s determination have some more work to be done but it is expected that the team will have it solved in time for the revised GSP filing date of July 27th, 2022.
- e. Kaweah Sub-Basin Management Team – Hunter reported on the sub-basin activities and noted the work on the water dashboard.

8. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

- a. Land IQ – Hunter Discussed the March Land IQ report. ET report is not ready as there are challenges with the reporting for open ground.
- b. Status of Allocations and ET analysis – Hunter provided an update.
- c. Direction from the Board – Hagman reminded the committee of the BOD’s request that the TAC and AC review and establish a scoring process for the Projects and Management Actions. He reviewed the comments received so far and the updated matrix with the AC. There was an extensive discussion and comment on the matrix and the individual projects. The completed matrix will be provided to the Board of Directors by August.
- d. Outreach Efforts – Hunter/Barton noted that most of the outreach now is to landowners regarding understanding their allocation and tools to analyze it.

- 9.** Timeline and Next Steps – Monday, June 20, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. is the next scheduled Advisory Committee meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairman Ferrara adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Michael D. Hagman
Secretary, East Kaweah GSA