

**EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON May 15, 2023**

The East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“EKGSA”) Advisory Committee duly met for a meeting on Monday, May 15, 2023.

OPEN Meeting: Convened at 4:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: DeeDee Gruber, Tien Tran, Matt Watkins, Graham Burt, Gregory Liebau, Alan Lombardi, Soapy Mulholland, Luis Sanchez-Balle, Vito DeLeonardis (Quorum = 5 voting members)

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Hagman, Executive Director; Chris Hunter, Program Manager; Matt Klinchuch; Kaitlyn Palys, and various members of the public.

1. **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Hagman conducted roll call and made introductions.

2. **APPROVE THE AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Lombardi and seconded by Liebau.

AYES: DeeDee Gruber, Tien Tran, Matt Watkins, Graham Burt, Gregory Liebau, Alan Lombardi, Soapy Mulholland, Luis Sanchez-Balle, Vito DeLeonardis

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve Minutes for April 17, 2023 was made by Burt and seconded by Tran.

AYES: DeeDee Gruber, Tien Tran, Matt Watkins, Graham Burt, Gregory Liebau, Alan Lombardi, Soapy Mulholland, Luis Sanchez-Balle, Vito DeLeonardis

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

5. **EKGSA ACTIVITY REPORT:**

- a. Technical Advisory Committee – Hagman reported on TAC activities which were focused on the recent DWR determination of incomplete for the Kaweah Subbasin GSP. Hagman reported that last Board meeting was in March, no update from Board. Technical Advisory Committee meet on DWR Determination and EKGSA “order of

use” rules and regulations. Palys provided an update on the KSB technical team approach to resolution on Well Mitigation and Sustainable Management Criteria. Small Group will be on May 22nd, TAC on May 31st.

- b. Board of Directors – Hagman reported the next Board meeting is scheduled for July, ED Hagman informed that a Board meeting will need to be established for Well Mitigation and Landowner assessments.

6. KAWEAH SUBBASIN ACTIVITY REPORT

- a. Hagman provided an update on the 5 grants and their related projects.
 - i. WCB Grant - RCIS – Hagman reported that a draft program was being established to consider projects on the west side of the GSA. The RCIS project will be sent to the state for review.
 - ii. Prop 68 Planning Grant – Hagman reported all the components are complete, which included the modified grant components which provided two ground subsidence CORS stations, fourteen water quality stations and four groundwater monitoring wells for the subbasin measurement network.
 - iii. Prop 68 – Implementation Grant (update – MKGSA Admin) Hunter reported that Mariposa Recharge Basin component was complete, and the Lewis Creek recharge review by USBR was complete.
 - iv. Prop 68 – Implementation Grant (update – GKGSA Admin) Hunter provided an update that all components have filed the EIF but there has been no further activity reported at this time.
 - v. MBLRP Grant – Hagman reported that Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District (KDWCD) had been awarded the grant and administrative and scoring processes were being developed. Several projects have been identified and reviewed. One project is to expand Herbert with land acquired by LID. The land will be able to deliver water from FKC through Lewis Creek. An additional project is upstream on Lewis Creek which is 220 acres, of which 80 acres is farmed.
- b. GSP and Basin Coordination Incomplete – Hagman reported on the Data Management System (DMS) which is being developed by Montgomery and Associates. The DMS is expected to be released in the next 30 days. In addition, EKGSA technical consultants are working with Kaweah Subbasin (KSB) model for the 2025 update. Klinchuch followed up that the model is the Stanford effort which is being worked on and coordinated by all the technical consultants in the KSB. Some of the work is updating the code, the water budget, and calibration between subsidence and water levels. Klinchuch expects the delivery to take the rest of 2023 and into 2024. Palys noted that historical data will be used for SWRCB efforts, but the model effort is to salvage the land subsidence and water level capacity. Based on questions from committee, Klinchuch explained the history of the KSB model efforts and the improvement within the water budget and subsidence package.

7. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- a. Hagman provided an update on the GSP Determination, noting that DWR deficiency comments resolved around subsidence, coordination amongst SMC, and understanding the impacts the relationships between SMC and MT. Palys provided a presentation that went over SWRCB Meeting, Well Mitigation Plan, and Sustainable Management Criteria Methodology. SWRCB meeting included, DWR staff, state technical staff and legal counsel, KSB was represented by EKGSA Board member Craig Hornung, and KSB technical consultants, managers, and staff. The focus of the meeting was to provide an overview of the effectiveness of the projects and management actions within the KSB, demonstrate coordination, proposed a schedule, emphasize the need for stakeholder engagement, and recognize the need to update SMCs per Regulations. Hagman noted that SWRCB instructed the GSAs to continue their efforts, and ED Hagman related to the SWRCB that groundwater pumping limits in the EKGSA is already limited to inflow.

The Committee held questions on the GKGSA allocations and their potential impacts to EKGSA and the KSB efforts to address the issues within the DWR inadequate determination. Hagman provided a high-level overview of the potential entities and their perspectives. Palys noted that a lack of coordination would bring on a set of State fees that could be more than thirty-eight million dollars. These fees would be in addition to the current GSAs management actions.

Palys stated that SWRCB focused on timelines and local control. State continued to ask questions ensuring that a public draft of the Well Mitigation Plan would be proved by June 30th, 2023.

Palys reviewed the work on the Well Mitigation Plan. Currently there is a framework which is being developed with the KSB. The framework will provide common standards for claim submittal, claim review, and other related structures. Each GSA will use the Well Mitigation Framework to develop their GSA Well Mitigation Plan. EKGSA and MKGSA are developing the first pass of the framework with GKGSA invited to the process. Palys described the components of Drinking Water Wells, Ag Wells, and Industrial Well of the mitigation plan. These wells are susceptible to chronic lowering of groundwater levels, land subsidence, and water quality and may be viable for well mitigation.

Tran offered to have CWC provide a high-level overview of the Mitigation Plan template that CWC is being developed with DWR funding.

- b. Hagman provided an update on the latest Land IQ report. Staff are working with Land IQ to have evaluation timelines.
- c. Status of Allocations and ET Analysis – Hagman reported that the Board approved the modifications to Rules and Regulations to codify previously adopted ET modifications for under special use cases.
- d. Outreach – ET, Allocations, Annual Report – Hunter noted the 2022 Allocation Summary was delivered to landowners. Staff are working with landowners to review their statements and update water accounts. Hunter provided an update on EKGSA public outreach activities The first annual Irrigation Day event is scheduled for the first two weeks of August; this even focuses the goal of reducing groundwater pumping by 15% on landowner education on water supply and irrigation practices.

- 8. Timeline and Next Steps – Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. is the next scheduled Advisory Committee meeting to review Mitigation Plan review and will schedule the next regularly scheduled meeting.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Michael D. Hagman
Secretary, East Kaweah GSA