

**EASTERN KAWEAH GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWER AUTHORITY**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2021

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Power Authority
Lindsay, California

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Power Authority (the Authority), which comprise the statement of net position as of December 31, 2021, and the related statement of revenues, expenses, changes in net position and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Power Authority, as of December 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Power Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Power Authority's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Power Authority's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements
- Conclude whether, in our judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Power Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Cuttone & Mastro

Fresno, California
September 15, 2022

EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY JPA

Statement of Net Position

December 31, 2021

ASSETS

Current assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,250,169
Assessments receivable	454,341
Grants receivable	<u>254,834</u>
Total current assets	<u>2,959,344</u>

Total assets	<u>2,959,344</u>
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LIABILITIES

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable	35,119
Current portion of long-term debt	<u>427,480</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>462,599</u>

Long-term debt	<u>1,282,440</u>
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Total liabilities	<u>1,745,039</u>
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DEFERRED INFLOW OF RESOURCES

Unearned revenue	<u>981,300</u>
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Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>2,726,339</u>
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NET POSITION

Unrestricted	<u>233,005</u>
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Total net position	<u>233,005</u>
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Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and net position	\$ <u><u>2,959,344</u></u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY JPA
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Position
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Operating Revenues:

Assessments - Land Owners	\$ 949,917
Assessments - City of Lindsay	12,510
Penalties and interest	4,973
Call for funds	222,000
Grant revenue for Groundwater Sustainability Planning	38,408
Grant revenue for Regional Conservation Investment Strategy Development	240,177
Other revenue	<u>140</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>1,468,125</u>

Operating Expenses:

Management and Administrative Services payments to Lindmore Irrigation District	360,000
Engineering and Consultants	282,634
Legal Costs	82,191
Audit Costs	6,650
Insurance	6,466
Office Expenses	13,088
Grant expense for Groundwater Sustainability Planning	35,942
Grant expense for Regional Conservation Strategy Development	234,817
Fee for County of Tulare to collect assessments	<u>2,595</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>1,024,383</u>

Total Operating Income	<u>443,742</u>
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Change in Net Position	443,742
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Net position, beginning of year	<u>(210,737)</u>
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Net position, end of year	<u>\$ 233,005</u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY JPA

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Cash flows from operating activities:

Cash received from assessments	\$ 1,299,755
Cash received from call of funds	222,000
Cash received from Basin Groundwater Sustainability Planning Grant	198,078
Cash received from Regional Conservation Strategy Development Grant	231,708
Cash paid to suppliers for goods and services	<u>(1,186,117)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>765,424</u>

Cash flows from financing activities:

Debt payments	<u>(427,480)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(427,480)</u>

Net increase in cash and cash equivalents 337,944

Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year 1,912,225

Cash and cash equivalents, end of year \$ 2,250,169

Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:

Operating income	<u>443,742</u>
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:	
(Increase) Decrease in:	
Assessments receivable	(454,341)
Grant receivable	151,201
Increase (Decrease) in:	
Accounts payable	(161,734)
Unearned revenues	<u>786,556</u>
Total adjustments	<u>321,682</u>

Net cash provided by operating activities \$ 765,424

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY JPA
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Power Authority (the Authority) is organized pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Act of 2014 which requires certain regions in California to develop and implement a plan that sustainably manages the shared groundwater resources for the benefit of the communities, agriculture and the environment. This act authorizes the formation of entities termed Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Under the act, each GSA will be responsible for assuming its regulatory role by June 30, 2017, and for submitting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan to the Department of Water Resources by January 31, 2020. The East Kaweah GSA is one of three agencies formed in the Kaweah Subbasin, a region that overlies portions of Tulare and Kings Counties. The East Kaweah GSA is led by an eleven-member Board of Directors of which seven are selected from among the agencies members. A Prop 218 election was held in October 26, 2020 with the landowners approving a land-based assessment to fund the Authority for the following five years and authorizing collection through the County Tax Rolls.

Member Agencies – The Joint Powers Agreement was entered into as of December 8, 2016, and between the City of Lindsay, County of Tulare, Exeter Irrigation District, Ivanhoe Irrigation District, Lindmore Irrigation District, Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District, and Stone Corral Irrigation District.

The more significant accounting policies of the Authority are described below:

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

In previous years, the Authority accounted for its activities as a governmental fund type. In 2021 the Authority elected to account for its activities as a special-purpose government engaged only in business-type activities, even though they may not meet the definition of an enterprise fund, and uses enterprise fund accounting and reporting. Enterprise fund financial statements include a Statement of Net Position, a Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position, and a Statement of Cash Flows. This change did not have any effect on beginning net position. All other changes related to terminology used, format of the Statement of Net Position, Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position, Statement of Cash Flows, and disclosures.

Enterprise funds are used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where the intent of the government body is that the cost and expenses of providing goods or services to its customers be financed or recovered primarily through users charges; or where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenue earned, expenses incurred, and net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes.

Enterprise funds are accounted for using the “economic resources” measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Accordingly, all assets and liabilities (whether current or noncurrent) are included on the Statement of Net Position. The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position presents increases (revenues) and decreases (expenses) in total net position. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized in the period in which they are earned while expenses are recognized in the period in which the liability is incurred.

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated from the primary operations of the Authority. The primary operations of the Authority are to facilitate compliance with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) by creating a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to achieve sustainability goals, i.e. a stable groundwater basin that is not subject to critical overdraft or subject to a number of other results deemed “undesirable”. All other revenues are reported as non-operating revenues. Operating expenses are those expenses that are essential to the primary operations of the Authority. All other expenses are reported as non-operating expenses.

EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY JPA

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2021

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued:

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, the Authority considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents.

Net Position

Net position is reported in three categories as follows:

Net investment in capital assets – This amount consists of capital assets net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by outstanding debt that attributed to the acquisition.

Restricted – This amount is restricted by external creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments.

Unrestricted – This amount is all net assets that do not meet the definition of “net investment in capital assets” or “restricted net position.”

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Assessments and Unearned Revenue

The County of Tulare is responsible for the assessment and collection of the land-based assessments. Assessments are levied and billed by the County of Tulare in the preceding year and are payable in two installments to the County – December 10 and April 10. The assessments are levied along with Tulare County’s property tax assessments. A 10% penalty is charged on late assessments. Payments are then distributed to the Authority in the middle of December, end of December and the middle of April, May and July. Unpaid County property taxes with the Authority’s assessment will be liened according to the County of Tulare’s procedures and not recovered by the Authority until collected by the County.

Land-based assessments for the subsequent calendar year are recorded as unearned revenue and assessment receivables in the current year.

Assessments Receivables

Assessments receivables consists of assessments, penalties and interest. All receivables are reported at their gross value and no allowance is being recorded or considered necessary as a lien can be placed on the property for delinquent assessments.

Income Taxes

The Authority is a governmental agency and is not subject to federal or state income taxes.

Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through September 15, 2022, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, and has determined that no adjustments are necessary to the amounts reported in the accompanying financial statements nor have any subsequent events occurred, the nature of which would require disclosure.

EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY JPA

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2021

2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

As of December 31, 2021, the carrying amount of the Authority's bank balances was \$2,250,169.

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the Authority will not be able to recover its deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party.

The California Government Code requires California banks and savings and loan associations to collateralize a governmental agencies deposits by pledging government securities. The market value of the pledged securities must equal at least 110 percent of an agency's deposits. California law also allows financial institutions to collateralize an agency's deposits by pledging first trust deed mortgage notes having a value of 150 percent of an agency's total deposits. The Authority may waive collateral requirements for deposits on accounts which are fully insured by The Federal Depository Insurance Company (FDIC) up to \$250,000.

At December 31, 2021, the bank balance with Bank of Sierra was \$2,290,270. Of this balance, \$250,000 was covered by the federal depository insurance and \$2,040,270 was collateralized by securities held by the pledging financial institutions' trust department or agent but not in the depositor-government's name.

The Authority has not formally adopted deposit and investment policies that limit the government's allowable deposits or investments and address the specific types of risk to which the government is exposed.

3. LONG-TERM DEBT

At the December 16, 2019 governing board meeting, an Implementation Call for Funds based on member acreage in the sum of \$2,500,000 was approved. Additional approval was given for repayment of this amount to these member agencies by placing these replacement costs in the land-based assessment. A proposition 218 balloting was held in October 26, 2020 with the landowners approving the proposed land assessment.

Repayment of actual amounts provided by member agencies will be principal only over five years at \$427,480 annually from 2021 through 2025 for a total of \$2,137,400. Annual member payment will be as follows:

City of Lindsay	\$ 6,022
County of Tulare	158,747
Exeter Irrigation District	47,481
Ivanhoe Irrigation. District	39,278
Lindmore Irrigation District	97,504
Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District	54,238
Stone Corral Irrigation District	<u>24,210</u>
	\$ <u>427,480</u>

Maturity of Long-Term Debt at December 31, 2021 is as follows:

2022	\$ 427,480
2023	427,480
2024	427,480
2025	<u>427,480</u>
	1,709,920
Due within one year	<u>427,480</u>
	\$ <u>1,282,440</u>

EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY JPA
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021

3. LONG-TERM DEBT

A summary of the Authority’s long-term liabilities is as follows:

	Dec 31, 2020			Dec 31, 2021		Current Portion	Long-Term Debt
	Balance	Additions	Deductions	Balance			
Authority member debt	<u>\$ 2,137,400</u>	<u>\$ _____</u>	<u>\$ 427,480</u>	<u>\$ 1,709,200</u>		<u>\$ 427,480</u>	<u>\$ 1,282,440</u>

4. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The agreement to form a joint power authority was signed December 8, 2016 by the following member governments which have been subject to calls for funds for governance in equal amounts and calls for funds for groundwater plan implementation based upon total applicable acres of each member within the boundary of the Authority as follows:

	Call for Funds	
	Governance	Groundwater Plan Implementation
City of Lindsay	\$ 32,000	30,112
County of Tulare	32,000	793,735
Exeter Irrigation District	32,000	237,402
Ivanhoe Irrigation. District	32,000	196,392
Lindmore Irrigation District	32,000	487,522
Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District	32,000	271,189
Stone Corral Irrigation District	<u>32,000</u>	<u>121,048</u>
	<u>\$ 224,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,137,400</u>

The Authority signed a two-year management and administrative services agreement with Lindmore Irrigation District through December 31, 2023. The total expense during the year for this service was \$360,000.

5. COMMITMENTS

In 2021, the Authority signed an addendum to continue the management and administrative services agreement with Lindmore Irrigation District through December 31, 2023. The rate of compensation increased by \$155,000 primarily as a result of Lindmore ID hiring a new Program Manager for ongoing program implementation as requested by the Authority’s Board of Directors. The Program Manager will spend 95% of his time on the Authority and 5% on Lindmore ID. The Authority shall make quarterly payments of \$128,750 for a total of \$515,000 during 2022 and quarterly payments of \$132,250 for a total of \$529,000 in 2023.

EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY JPA
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021

6. GRANT AGREEMENTS

On March 5, 2020, the Authority obtained a \$515,330 grant from the California Wildlife Conservation Board. This funding is from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) to assist with the project generally described as the development of a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) on the Kaweah Groundwater Subbasin in Tulare and Kings Counties. The Authority had through March 1, 2022 to complete work under this grant. In December 2021, the Authority submitted the RCIS for the completeness review, and it received confirmation that the it is technically complete. The Authority expects to have final approval by the Department of Fish and Wildlife by late September 2022. Total expenses submitted for reimbursement through December 31, 2021 are \$361,174.

On May 14, 2020, the Authority obtained a \$500,000 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant from the California Department of Water Resources. This funding is from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) or the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) to assist in financing the Kaweah Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Planning Project. The provision of State funds resulted in an adopted GSP by the Authority submitted to the Department of Water Resources for review. Eligible costs included work performed on the project after June 6, 2018 through March 31, 2022. Total expenses submitted in quarterly reports for reimbursement through December 31, 2021 are \$227,351. The Authority submitted a modification to the grant to include replacement monitoring projects and to extend the deadline on the grant to December 2022, which was approved by the Department of Water Resources.