

**EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING ON AUGUST 30, 2022

The East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“EKGSA”) Board of Directors duly met for a Regular meeting on Monday, August 30, 2022, via video/phone conference and in person – COVID -19 protocol.

OPEN SESSION: Convened at 3:12 p.m. with a quorum.

- 1. DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Buldo, Ferrara, George, Hornung, Micari, Milanesio E., Milanesio, S., Peltzer, Roberts, Watson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Caudillo

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Hagman, Executive Director; Joe Hughes, Legal Counsel; Matt Klinchuch, Consulting Engineer; Kathy Bennett, Senior Analyst; and various members of the committees and public.

- 2. APPROVE THE AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Director Roberts, seconded by Director Hornung, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Buldo, Ferrara, George, Hornung, Micari, Milanesio E., Milanesio, S., Peltzer, Roberts, Watson

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Caudillo

- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment

- 4. MINUTES:** Motion to adopt and ratify the minutes provided by the Secretary from the July 25, 2022, Special Board Meeting was made by Director Hornung, seconded by Director Roberts, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Buldo, Ferrara, George, Hornung, Micari, Milanesio E., Milanesio, S., Peltzer, Roberts, Watson

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Caudillo

5. ADMINISTRATION:

- a. Prop 68 – WCB-RCIS: Executive Director reported on the status of the RCIS effort. Hagman noted that it is expected that the RCIS will be approved by the Department of Fish and Wildlife by mid-September.
- b. Prop 68 – Basin Planning Grant: Executive Director noted that there is one remaining task on this grant. The grant has an approved modification that changes Task #2 to Monitoring Projects (and deleted well videoing) and an approved extension that allows these monitoring projects to be completed by mid-November and final reporting being done by December 31, 2022.
- c. Prop 68 – Basin Implementation Grant: Executive Director reminded the Board that this grant is awarded to the Mid Kaweah GSA for Kaweah Subbasin activities. The grant was heavily weighted to DAC benefits. The grant also required the activities to be in the GSP. Hagman reported that the two projects that were funded were the Lewis Creek Recharge and the Mariposa Basin connection to Lindmore ID pipeline. Lindmore ID is paying for the cost share on both projects.
- d. MBLRP Grant – Executive Director noted the \$10M grant was awarded and we are in the process of developing a plan and projects that focus on multiple benefits from currently irrigated land to repurposed land.
- e. Project Grant: Executive Director reminded the Board that this grant if managed by the Greater Kaweah GSA and has several EKGSA projects (Cottonwood and Yokohl releases from the FKC, Dry Well Study, Lindsay-Strathmore Infrastructure for releases into Lewis Creek, and Sentinel Butte Infrastructure).

6. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

- a. Allocation Recommendation: The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Advisory Committee (AC) reported to the Board on the groundwater condition in the EKGSA. In the presentation, it was highlighted that by the end of this allocation year (September 2022) it is that eight of the ten threshold regions will be at or near minimum threshold established in the GSP. Given that information, the TAC and the AC are recommending a Native allocation of 0.85 AF per acre to all assessed lands and a 0.30 AF per acre for all irrigated lands. In addition, the TAC is recommending that all water above Native should have a fee of \$500 AF placed on it. The Advisory Committee recommended that any discussion of fees should be deferred till after December 31, 2022.
- b. Resolution 2022-04: Setting an ET allocation for the 2023 allocation period (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023) – Hagman provided the resolution developed by Counsel Hughes for the Board’s consideration. After considerable discussion, the Board of Directors asked the Technical Advisory Committee to set a “cap” and deferred action on this item until a special meeting in September or the regular meeting in October.
- c. Advisory Committee (AC) Report: Director Ferrara reported that the AC had finalized their recommendations on the Projects and Policy Actions Matrix. Their recommendations were considerably similar to those provided by the TAC with the

exception that the AC wanted the EKGSA to consider land fallowing and land retirement programs especially if there was money from other sources outside of the fees charged to landowners. After some discussion, the Board thanked the committees for their work.

- d. Rules and Regulations Ad Hoc: Director George and Counsel Hughes reported that the Ad Hoc Committee has not fully completed the Rules and Regulations. Hughes noted that it is likely they will be ready for the end of September if the Board chooses to set up a meeting for that date.
 - e. Consider Allowance of EKGSA Allocation to/from EKGSA and other GSAs in the subbasin. This question was precipitated by a landowner request in the GKGSA who has lands in both the EKGSA and the GKGSA. Hagman noted that the GKGSA has no allocation, therefore, a transfer from GKGSA would ultimately have no limit. The landowner making the request noted that his letter should be considered for Native supply in the GKGSA. After substantial discussion, the Board declined transfers at this time outside or into the EKGSA from other GSAs until all GSA have similar transactional allocations.
7. **CLOSED SESSION:** Board went into closed session at 3:22 p.m. and after discussion, came out of closed session at 4:46 p.m. There was no reportable action.

8. **SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:**

The Executive Director reported that the next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on October 24, 2022. Hagman recommended a special meeting to address Rules and Regulations and the 2023 Allocation be established. After some calendar management, the Board Chair set a meeting for the EKGSA Board of Directors for September 30, 2022 at 3:00 PM.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Michael D. Hagman
Secretary, East Kaweah GSA