

**MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUB-BASIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY BOARD**

SUMMARY MINUTES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016
3:00 p.m.
Tulare Public Library & Council Chambers
491 North "M" Street, Tulare, CA 93274

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carlton Jones, Craig Vejvoda, David Bixler, Dave Martin, Steve Nelsen, Greg Collins

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Olmos, Leslie Caviglia, Aaron Fukuda, Paul Hendrix, Kim Loeb, Ken Richardson, Don Dorman, Roxanne Yoder; Phil Smith (COT/Alt)

1. CALL TO ORDER CLOSED SESSION

Chair Bixler called the closed session to order at 2:30 p.m.

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT -** Comments from the public are limited to items listed on the closed session agenda (GC 54954.3a). Speakers will be allowed three minutes, unless otherwise extended by the Board Chair. The Board cannot legally discuss or take official action on items presented under public comment.

Chair Bixler called for public comment. No public comment was presented.

3. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSIONS

Chair Bixler adjourned to closed session discussions at 2:30 p.m.

- a. 54956.9(d)(2) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (1) – California Water Service Company letter dated December 28, 2015, objecting to the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sub-basin's formation as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency

4. RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSIONS & REPORT OUT

Chair Bixler reconvened from closed session discussions at 3:00 p.m. and stated there were no reportable actions.

5. ADJOURN CLOSED SESSSION

Chair Bixler adjourned closed session at 3:00 p.m.

6. CALL TO REGULAR ORDER:

Chair Bixler opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Bixler called for public comment. No public comment was presented.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- a. **Approval of minutes of November 10, 2015 GSA meeting.** It was moved by C. Vejvoda, seconded by C. Jones and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as presented.
- b. **Consideration of Letter dated December 15, 2015, from California Water Service Company requesting full participation and membership in Mid-Kaweah Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and Letter dated December 28, 2015, from Mid-Kaweah Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Chair, David Bixler, responding to California Water Service Company request. [Additional material related to this item will be distributed once available.]*** D. Dorman provided a report for the Board's review and consideration regarding California Water Service Company's request for full participation and membership. He commenced with a review of the Agency's governance structure, current make-up of elected officials and purposes. He also reviewed the intent of SGMA with respect to governing bodies for groundwater sustainability agencies and expressed concerns over private entities as voting members. He further welcomed Cal Water's input via the Agency's committee structure.

Greg Milleman, a representative of Cal Water thereupon addressed the Board in support of their request. He made reference to prior request letters and the Agency's response thereto, as well as Cal Water's protest letter submitted to the state DWR. Mr. Milleman then made mention of amendments to SGMA and their involvement in Stockton's water banking authority. He asked the Board to consider allowing Cal Water to join the Agency as a voting member, and additionally asked if the Agency's joint powers agreement might be amended to allow more flexibility in qualifications for membership.

P. Hendrix then commented on the complexity of the new groundwater laws and staff's efforts in identifying stakeholders and how the Agency would engage them., noting that Cal Water has expressed an interest in joining its Advisory Committee Following discussion it was moved by Vice Chair Nelsen, seconded by D. Martin and unanimously carried to deny the requests.

- c. **Status report on solicitation for Advisory Committee and request to extend deadline to accept applications to March 1, 2016.*** L. Caviglia provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. She summarized the membership process to-date, noting mailings personal outreach, web site notice and receipt of applications. She recommended that the application submittal deadline be extended to March 1st and mentioned the Agency's interest in including environmental justice and disadvantaged community representation on the Committee. Following discussion it was moved by Vice Chair Nelsen, seconded by C. Vejvoda and unanimously carried to extend the application deadline to March 1, 2016, as requested.
- d. **Discussion of GSP Coordination Agreement elements.** P. Hendrix provided an update on both items d and e. He summarized the first phase of Prop 1 grant applications made accessible to counties with stressed groundwater basins. He noted that Tulare County has

applied for such a grant, and that other Prop 1 monies will be available later for entities such as the Agency to apply for. He added that such applications could include actual projects to enhance groundwater supplies. Mr. Hendrix next indicated that staff have been working on an outline of a coordination agreement to be considered by groundwater sustainability agencies in the Kaweah Sub-basin. He emphasized that such an agreement is required by SGMA since the sub-basin will have more than one such agency.

e. Update on Prop 1 Grant. See above report.

f. Status Report on Consulting Hydrogeologist Responses to Request for Proposals.* A. Fukuda provided an update on the RFP Proposal and selection process. He noted that a total of six responses have been received and that a schedule is soon to be developed for screening and interviews by staff. Mr. Hendrix then added that many of the responses included sub-consultants that were included to provide expertise and assistance in public outreach and data management in addition to groundwater hydrogeology, these being skill sets that were solicited as part of the RFP.

g. Update on City of Tulare's 2015 Urban Water Management Plan. D. Dorman provided a report on the City of Tulare's 2015 Urban Water Management Plan update. He commented on some of the Plan revisions and required coverage of collaborative efforts on a county-wide basis, including the IWRMP and programs with Tulare ID.

h. Other business.

Following discussion the Board, by concurrence cancelled the meeting of February 9, 2016, due to the World Ag Expo held that same week. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2016.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Bixler adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.