

Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Board Meeting Minutes

City of Dinuba – Council Chambers
405 East El Monte Way, Dinuba, CA 93618
May 18, 2017

1. **Call to Order:** The Board Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Fast at 2:00 p.m and following Directors were present: Cities, Vice-Chair Mary Fast; County of Fresno, Ernest “Buddy” Mendes; Irrigation/Water Districts, Loren Booth; Alta Irrigation District, Jack Brandt; Drinking Water Districts, Fernando Rubalcaba; and Production Ag, Steve Boos. Also in attendance: Alta Irrigation District, General Manager Chad Wegley; Attorney Lauren Layne and Alta Irrigation District Controller Irma Faria. There were no objections to the meeting being recorded.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Secretary Brandt led the public in a Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Potential Conflicts of Interest:**
 - 3.1 Secretary Brandt identified a possible conflict of interest on item #10.6 Development Activity regarding Kings Canyon Union School District.
4. **Public Comment:** None.
5. **Additions to or Deletions from the Agenda:** None.
6. **Review/Approval of Board Meeting Minutes:** It was **M/S/C Unanimously by Brandt/Rubalcaba (Booth abstained)** to approve the April 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes as written.
7. **Communications:** None.
8. **Board of Director Reports – Discuss and Consider for Action:** None.
9. **Consent Calendar Items – Take Action:** None.
10. **Other Board Items – Take Action**
 - 10.1 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Professional Services – The review for consultants to provide technical services to Kings River East GSA for compiling information from member agencies and developing a GSP was tabled for the next meeting.
 - 10.2 Prop 26 Professional Services – Attorney Layne reviewed the qualifications and hourly rates of the same two consulting firms who submitted SOQs last month Raftelis Financial Consultants and Lechowicz & Tseng Municipal Consultants. It was **M/S/C Unanimously by Mendes/Brandt** to award a contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Lechowicz & Tseng Municipal Consultants, to provide professional services to Kings River GSA for establishing a fee structure to pay for developing a GSP and initial operating costs. **Insert 14A**
 - 10.3 Payables – It was **M/S/C unanimously by Mendes/Rubalcaba** to approve the May 2017 payables in the amount of \$8,856.44. **Insert 14B**
 - 10.4 Advisory Committee – The discussion and approval of members to an Advisory Committee to assist the Board with developing policy recommendations for complying with the Sustainable

Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was tabled until the next meeting.

- 10.5 Liability Insurance – It was **M/S/C Unanimously by Mendes/Brandt** to authorize Chad Wegley to apply for liability insurance from ACWA JPIA on behalf of the KREGSA. ACWA/JPIA is discussing creation, by 12/31/2019, of a separate litigation defense pool for GSA members.
- 10.6 Development Activity – Brandt excluded himself from discussion and voting. Chad Wegley informed the Board about proposed schools within Dinuba and Kings Canyon Union School Districts that would rely solely on groundwater as a source of supply. It was **M/S/C Unanimously by Mendes/Booth (Brandt abstained)** to direct staff to prepare comment letters, as part of the environmental impact report (EIR) process, to the school districts requesting that their draft EIRs explain how new groundwater demand in a critically over drafted groundwater basin complies with the sustainable groundwater management act.
- 10.7 California Supreme Court Cases – No update.

11. Groundwater Sustainability Activities – Review for Possible Action

- 11.1 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update – DWR sent out a survey to identify the need for facilitating services.
- 11.2 Kings Basin coordination and hydrogeological investigations – No update.
- 11.3 DWR’s Best Management Practices – New best management practices are not anticipated until later this year. Chad Wegley responded to a question from the public on reporting of groundwater extractions. He explained that, at this time, landowners would only need to report groundwater extractions if the SWRCB declared a basin probationary.

12. Future Agenda Items(s) – None.

13. Adjournment - There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Fast at 2:40 P.M. until the next regular scheduled meeting on June 15, 2017.

Signed: _____
Jack Brandt, Secretary to the Board
JB:ipf