

# Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency

## Special Board Meeting

### MINUTES

*Per Executive Order N-29-20 and Assembly Bill 361, which allows local and state legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference and to make meetings accessible electronically, this Special Meeting of the Board of Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency was held via Ring Central on Thursday October 21, 2021, and was accessed as follows:*

<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/4925808335>

Meeting ID: 492 580 8335

Telephone: (650) 242-4929

*The public participated in the meeting as otherwise permitted under the Brown Act by logging into Ring Central.*

1. **Call to Order** – The Special Board Meeting of the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency was called to order by Chairman Ernest “Buddy” Mendes at 2:06 p.m. and the following directors were present via Ring Central, Ag Production, Steve Boos; Alta Irrigation District, Jack Brandt; Cities, Mary Fast; Drinking Water Districts, Fernie Rubalcaba; and Irrigation Districts Alternate, Jack Paxton. Director(s) absent: Tulare County, Eddie Valero. Also, in attendance – Alta Irrigation District, General Manager Chad Wegley, Operations Manager Marc Limas, and attorney Douglas B. Jensen. Six (6) members of the public were also on Ring Central.
2. **Potential Conflicts of Interest** – None.
3. **Remote Teleconference Board Meeting Resolution**
  - 3.1. Remote Teleconference Board Meeting Resolution – It was M/S/C unanimously (Director Valero absent) via roll call vote on motion by Alternate Director Paxton, seconded by Vice Chairman Fast, to adopt resolution consistent with AB 361. (see Insert 3.1)
4. **Public Comment** – None.
5. **Communications** – None.
6. **Board of Director Reports** – None.
7. **Consent Calendar Items** – It was M/S/C unanimously (Director Valero absent) via roll call vote on motion by Vice Chairman Fast, seconded by Director Brandt to approve the consent calendar.
  - 7.1. Payables – Review and approve payment of June, July, August, and September 2021 invoices (see Insert 7.1)
  - 7.2. Board Meeting Minutes – Review and approve minutes of May 20, 2021, regular Board meeting.
8. **Other Board Items – Take Action**
  - 8.1. Treasurer’s Statement – Board of Directors reviewed the Treasurer’s statement for the periods ending May, June, July, August, and September 2021, and it was M/S/C unanimously (Director Valero absent) via roll

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call vote on motion by Alternate Director Paxton, seconded by Director Rubalcaba to accept the Treasurer's statement. (see Insert 8.1)

- 8.2. Grant Reimbursements – The retention of approximately \$21,000 due from DWR on the Prop 1 grant is outstanding. The final report was delivered to DWR along with a request for payment of retention. Approximately \$3,400 was received on the first submittal for the well construction information grant.
- 8.3. Audit RFP – It was M/S/C unanimously (Director Valero absent) on motion by Director Brandt, seconded by Vice Chairman Fast to select Cuttone and Mastro's proposal for auditing services for fiscal year ending 2021, 2022, and 2023. (see Insert 8.3)
- 8.4. Fiscal Year Budget – It was M/S/C unanimously (Director Valero absent) on motion by Vice Chairman Fast, seconded by Alternate Director Paxton to approve the budget for fiscal year end September 30, 2022. (see Insert 8.4)

#### 9. Groundwater Sustainability Activities – Review for Possible Action

- 9.1. GSA Invoices – Approximately \$1,000,000 was billed in Prop 26 fees for a three-year period covering 2018, 2019, and 2020, with ninety-six percent (96%) collected to date. Staff is working on collecting the remainder of unpaid bills from landowners.
- 9.2. Groundwater Sustainability Activities – General Manager Wegley reported that Kings Subbasin was successful in securing funds from a Prop 68 grant for Sultana's storm water project. The GSA has not received DWR's GSP comment letter and hopes one will be provided by year's end - issuance of a letter should be preceded by a consultation meeting with DWR. SGMA allows DWR two years, from a GSP's submittal date, to issue a written assessment. Provost and Pritchard continues to work on verifying construction of wells in the various monitoring networks established by GSAs within the Kings Subbasin.

10. **Legal Issues** – No update.

11. **Future Agenda Item(s)** - None.

12. **Adjournment** – There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Ernest "Buddy" Mendes at 2:45 p.m., until the next regular scheduled meeting on November 18, 2021.

Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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Jack Brandt, Secretary

JB:ml