

Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES

City of Dinuba – Council Chambers
405 East El Monte Way, Dinuba, CA 93618
March 21, 2024

1. **Call to Order** - The Regular Board Meeting of the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency was called to order by Chairman Ernest “Buddy” Mendes at 2:00 p.m. and the following directors were present, Alta Irrigation District, Jack Brandt, Cities, Matthew Tuttle, Tulare County, Eddie Valero, Drinking Water Districts, Fernie Rubalcaba, and Irrigation Districts Alternate, Kyle Moeller. Production Ag seat vacant. Also, in attendance – Alta Irrigation District, General Manager, Chad Wegley, Operations Manager, Marc Limas, Administrative Analyst, Penny Durham, and attorney Douglas B. Jensen.

2. **Potential Conflicts of Interest** – None.

3. **Public Comment** –

- 3.1. A landowner inquired if Kings River East GSA noted areas within its boundaries where groundwater levels decreased even after the 2023 wet year, He was especially concerned about land in the southern end of Alta Irrigation District having entitlement only to groundwater.

Chairman Mendes took items 6, 8.4, 8.5, and 9.1 out of order.

4. **Communications** – None.

5. **Board of Director Reports** – None.

6. **Fiscal Year End September 2023 Audit** – Mike Cuttone, a CPA with Cuttone & Mastro CPAs, reviewed the fiscal year end September 30, 2023, audit. It was the opinion of Cuttone & Mastro, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency as of September 30, 2023, and the changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. (see Insert 6.1) It was M/S/C unanimously (Production Ag vacant) on motion by Director Valero, seconded by Director Brandt to accept the year end September 30, 2023, audit.

7. **Consent Calendar Items** – It was M/S/C unanimously (Production Ag vacant) on motion by Director Valero, seconded by Director Brandt to approve consent calendar agenda items as presented:

7.1 Payables – Review and approve payment of December 2023, January and February 2024, invoices (see Insert 7.1)

7.2 Board Meeting Minutes – Review and approve minutes of December 21, 2023, special Board meeting .

8. **Other Board Items – Take Action**

- 8.1. Treasurer’s Statement – The Board of Directors reviewed the Treasurer’s Statement of period ending December 2023, January and February 2024 and it was M/S/C unanimously (Production Ag vacant) on

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motion by Director Brandt, seconded by Director Valero, to accept the Treasurer's Statement. (see Insert 8.1)

- 8.2. Grant Reimbursements – No update.
- 8.3. Write off Outstanding Accounts Receivable Balances it was M/S/C unanimously (Production Ag vacant) on motion by Director Brandt, seconded by Director Valero, to write off outstanding Accounts Receivable balances.
- 8.4. Proposition 26/218 Consultant – RPF for Proposition 218 Consultant will be released on March 22, 2024. The award date is mid-May 2024 for service period June 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.
- 8.5. Filling Production Ag Seat – Candidates' applications to serve as a board member must be reviewed by Tulare County and Fresno County Farm Bureaus. In order to be considered for service as the board member representing production agriculture, potential candidates must be involved in agricultural production and live within the boundaries of the KREGSA.

9. Groundwater Sustainability Activities – Review for Possible Action

- 9.1. Annual Report – General Manager Wegley gave an update on the Annual Report that will be submitted to DWR by April 1, 2024.

General Manager Wegley left the meeting at 2:10 P.M.

10. Legal Issues – Review for Possible Action

- 10.1. Attorney Legal Update on Matters Affecting the GSA and Legislation – Attorney Jensen gave an update on various bills from the current legislative session regarding water well permits and exhaustion of administrative remedies prior to filing lawsuits involving Proposition 218.

11. Future Agenda Item(s) – None

Adjournment - There being no further items to discuss, it was M/S/C unanimously (Production Ag vacant) on motion by Director Tuttle, seconded by Director Valero to adjourn, the meeting was adjourned by Ernest "Buddy" Mendes at 2:33 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on June 20, 2024.

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Jack Brandt, Secretary

JB:pd