Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Special Board Meeting
MINUTES

City of Dinuba – Council Chambers
405 East El Monte Way, Dinuba, CA 93618
January 21, 2025

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 2:00 p.m. and the following directors were present: Alta Irrigation District, Jack Brandt; Cities, Matthew Tuttle; Irrigation/Water Districts, Jack Paxton; Tulare County, Eddie Valero; Ag Production, vacant; Drinking Water Districts, Fernie Rubalcaba absent; Also in attendance were Alta Irrigation District, General Manager, Chad Wegley; Operations Manager, Marc Limas; Administrative Analyst, Penny Durham; and attorney Lauren D. Layne.

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

3. **Public Comment** – None.

4. **Communications –** None.

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

6. **Consent Calendar Items –** It was M/S/C unanimously (Ag Production vacant, Director Rubalcaba absent) on motion by Director Valero, seconded by Director Tuttle to approve consent calendar agenda items 6.1 and 6.2:

   6.1. Payables – Review and approve payment of December 2024 invoices (see Insert 6.1)

   6.2. Audit Engagement Letter – Review and approve the Audit Engagement Letter with Cuttone & Mastro, CPAs. (see Insert 6.2)

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

   7.1. Treasurer's Statement –The Board of Directors reviewed the Treasurer's Statement for the period ending December 2024. It was M/S/C unanimously (Ag Production vacant, Director Rubalcaba absent) on motion by Director Brandt, seconded by Director Valero to accept the Treasurer's Statement as presented. (see Insert 7.1)

   7.2. Proposition 26/218 Consultant – Chad Wegley provided an update on the search to for a consultant to provide professional services related to KREGSA's Proposition 26/218 efforts. In December 2024, the GSA issued a solicitation for services, but no proposals were submitted by the mid-January 2025 deadline. Lechowicz & Cheng, a consultant that worked on our Proposition 26 effort, expressed interest in this project but are unable to take on this project due to their current workload. Mr. Wegley also mentioned that Provost & Pritchard is available to provide professional services to assist the GSA with funding its sustainable groundwater management activities and plans to submit a proposal for the GSA's consideration.

8. Groundwater Sustainability Activities – Review for Possible Action

8.1. Revised Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Chad Wegley updated the board on general information about sustainable groundwater management activities and the revised 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for Kings River East GSA. Mr. Wegley highlighted that the Kings subbasin is one of only four subbasins adjacent to or south of the San Joaquin River with approved GSPs. Managing groundwater sustainably for nearly 1 million acres is a unique challenge, achieved through collaboration with the six other GSAs. Revisions to the GSP respond to Recommended Corrective Actions from the Department of Water Resources' letter on August 4, 2025, along with discussions about implementing a Domestic Well Mitigation Program and preparing supplemental technical studies on interconnected surface waters and confined aquifer pumping. The revised GSP has been available for public comment since October 2024. Chairman Mendes asked and did not receive any comments from the public in attendance. It was M/S/C unanimously (Ag Production vacant, Director Rubalcaba absent) on motion by Director Paxton, seconded by Director Brandt to adopt the revised Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

8.2. Revised Exhibit " B" of the Kings Subbasin Coordination Agreement. Chad Wegley explained that Exhibit B of the Kings Subbasin coordination agreement required Board approval since the hydrologic base period was modified in response to DWR's Recommended Actions. The base period changed from 1997-2011 to 2009-23 to include recent multi- and single-year droughts. A coordination agreement is a SGMA requirement for any subbasin with multiple GSAs and GSPs. It was M/S/C unanimously (Ag Production vacant, Drinking Water Districts Fernie Rubalcaba absent) on a motion by Director Brandt and seconded by Director Paxton to approve Exhibit "B" of the Coordination Agreement. (see Insert 8.2)

8.3. 2025 Periodic Evaluation. Chad Wegley explained that the Kings Subbasin is submitting its first periodic evaluation to DWR. These evaluations are required at least every five years and whenever an amendment is required to the GSP. Periodic Evaluations are intended to be an honest assessment on GSA's progress toward sustainability, including successes, challenges, and plans to address them. Key successes include implementation of a Domestic Well Mitigation Program, coordinating with neighboring subbasins on Interconnected Surface Water issues, and meeting 2025 overdraft mitigation goals, etc. This report is due by January 31, 2025, and it expands on the information contain in the annual reports. This was only a discussion item.

9. Legal Issues – Review for Possible Action

9.1. Attorney Legal Update on Matters Affecting the GSA and Legislation – Attorney Layne gave an update on the current legislative session and updates on the status of neighboring subbasins.

10. Future Agenda Item(s) – No Action – Minutes of September and December Meeting, Fiscal Year End 2024 Audit.

11. Adjournment - There being no further items to discuss, it was M/S/C unanimously (Ag Production vacant, Director Rubalcaba absent) on motion by Director Valero, seconded by Director Tuttle to adjourn the meeting at 2:21 p.m. until the next Board Meeting scheduled on March 20, 2025.

Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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Jack Brandt, Secretary

JB:pd