

MINUTES of the special meeting of the Board of Directors of Southwest Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“SWKGSA”) held on April 27, 2020 at the office of the Agency, 286 W. Cromwell Avenue, Fresno, California.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kimberly Brown, Dudley Ridge Water District
Steven Jackson, White Area representative
Bernard Puget, Dudley Ridge Water District
Jim Wilson, Tulare Lake Reclamation District 761
Mark Grewal, Tulare Lake Reclamation District 761

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dale Melville, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Joe Hopkins, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Rick Besecker, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock and Jensen
Dusty Ference, Kings County Farm Bureau
Kiti Campbell, Westlands Water District
Dennis Tristao, J.G. Boswell
Riley Jones, Tulare Lake Compost
Cody Tolbert, Chevron
Mike Nordstrom, Sandridge Partners

Chair Brown called the Board meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Director Jackson and second by Director Puget, the minutes from the April 8, 2020 regular meeting of the Agency were approved as presented by the following vote:

Brown	Puget	Grewal	Wilson	Jackson
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

METER POLICY

Mr. Melville discussed that a letter has been sent to landowners which the GSA believes have groundwater wells. The letter is a plain-English version of the policy.

SUBBASIN ISSUES

Mr. Hopkins reported that there is no change in status from the last Board meeting regarding the Tulare Lake Subbasin Proposition 68 grant funding request for SGMA planning. The Subbasin collectivity requested \$500,000 to fund model refinements, monitoring, and coordination. Some funds have already been expended by the Subbasin, so the grant would also seek to recover those expenses. Preliminary grant awards have been provided by the DWR; the Tulare Lake Subbasin has been allotted \$450,000 initially and another \$50,000 contingent on later DWR budget allocations.

Mr. Hopkins also noted that there has been no change in status on Technical Support Services request to DWR. He then reminded the Board that a request was made for Technical Support Services from DWR to drill monitoring wells. The initial request has been accepted at the local level and has been sent to Sacramento for review. Per DWR’s process, once the initial request is approved, a more detailed request will be required.

Mr. Melville informed the Board that no new GSP comments have been received. The only comments received to date is the February 28 letter from the Department of Fish and Wildlife (“DFW”). DFW was essentially re-iterating their comments provided in a November 27, 2019 letter to the GSAs regarding their concerns that environmental uses of water were not adequately considered. The deadline for comments has been extended by DWR to May 15, 2020 due to the Coronavirus situation.

GSP COMMENT LETTER

As follow up to the January 27, 2020 Board meeting, Mr. Melville provided an update to Director Jackson’s approved motion that a letter be provided to DWR to express the concern that sustainability should be reached sooner than identified in the GSP. Mr. Melville presented the letter that was included in the Board package and then turned the discussion over to Director Jackson. The Ad Hoc Committee of Directors Jackson and Brown have met several times to refine the letter, but at this point do not concur on the content of the letter. A lengthy discussion ensued, including who should sign the letter and how to incorporate the split decision of the Board. Director Grewal motioned to approve the letter as modified to include the Board’s vote and the

Vice Chair as signatory. The motion was seconded by Director Wilson and the Board voted to adopt the motion. Following the vote, Chair Brown announced that the directors voted as follows:

Brown	Puget	Grewal	Wilson	Jackson
Nay	Nay	Aye	Aye	Aye

REPORT OF COUNSEL

Ms. Layne provided a brief update on the tolling agreements between Westlands and the SWKGSA and the extension of the tolling to July 30, 2020. Due to the late availability of the tolling agreement and timing to retain the intent of the tolling, Mr. Melville executed the tolling agreement on April 9, after Ms. Layne’s review. After a short discussion, Director Jackson motioned to ratify the agreement. The motion was seconded by Director Wilson and the Board voted to adopt the motion. Following the vote, Chair Brown announced that the directors voted as follows:

Brown	Puget	Grewal	Wilson	Jackson
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Executive Director noted that the next Board meeting is yet to be determined, but would likely be the regularly scheduled June Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Steven D. Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer

APPROVED:

Kimberly M. Brown, Chair