

**SOUTHWEST KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY  
AGENCY  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
October 1, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Friday, October 1, 2021, at the hour of 1:00 p.m. The meeting was available via Zoom for interested parties.

Vice Chair Grewal presided and Executive Director Jackson kept the minutes.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Mark Grewal  
Kim Brown  
Jim Wilson  
Bernard Puget

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deanna Jackson, Executive Director  
Staci Wilkins, Executive Assistant  
Jason Howard, McCormick Barstow  
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec  
Kiti Campbell, Westlands Water District  
Cody Tolbert, Chevron  
Mike Cuttone, Cuttone & Mastro  
Rusty Areias, California Strategies  
David Armanasco, California Strategies  
Scott Hamilton, Water Blueprint  
Ceil W. Howe III  
Zac Just, Westlands Water District

Vice Chair Grewal called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

**CONSENT CALENDAR** (Agenda items 1 – 3)

Upon the motion of Director Brown and seconded by Director Wilson, the Consent Calendar consisting of Minutes of the August 6, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, Warrants and Finances dated between 07/30/2021 and 09/23/2021, and the Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by the following roll call vote:

<b>Brown</b>	<b>Wilson</b>	<b>Grewal</b>	<b>Puget</b>
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

**ACTION CALENDAR**

4. Review and consider the appointment of an individual to represent the “White Areas”. After some discussion, Director Brown motioned to appoint Ceil W. Howe III to the vacant position with a term through November 2023, which was seconded by Director Puget. The Directors voted as follows:

<b>Brown</b>	<b>Wilson</b>	<b>Grewal</b>	<b>Puget</b>
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

5. Review the status of the Board officers. With the Chair position open, discussion centered around whether new officers should be elected at this time or if they should remain as is until the first meeting in 2022. Director Brown motioned to keep the officers as they are with the Vice Chair leading the meetings through the end of 2021 which was seconded by Director Puget. The Directors voted as follows:

<b>Brown</b>	<b>Wilson</b>	<b>Puget</b>	<b>Howe</b>	<b>Grewal</b>
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

6. Consider for approval the Southwest Kings GSA Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s report for the year ended December 31, 2020. Mike Cuttone presented the information and answered all questions. Director Brown motioned to approve the audit report as presented which was seconded by Director Howe. The Directors voted as follows:

<b>Brown</b>	<b>Wilson</b>	<b>Puget</b>	<b>Howe</b>	<b>Grewal</b>
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

7. Review and consider for approval expenditure for Water Blueprint of the San Joaquin Valley. Scott Hamilton presented information on the work that they are doing and its importance. The invoice presented was for half due since Dudley Ridge Water District had already paid the remaining \$7,500. Director Brown motioned to approve the invoice for \$7,500 which was seconded by Director Puget. The Directors voted as follows:

<b>Brown</b>	<b>Wilson</b>	<b>Puget</b>	<b>Howe</b>	<b>Grewal</b>
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

8. Consider for approval AB361 in regards to continuing to offer Board meetings via Zoom in addition to being in person. General Counsel Howard explained that the previous Executive Order had expired on September 30 with AB361 taking its place on October 1. The legislature understands the importance of online meetings and established guidelines to continue holding meetings as long as certain conditions are met. Director Brown motioned to continue with the

meeting format as it stands which was seconded by Director Wilson. The Directors voted as follows:

<b>Brown</b>	<b>Wilson</b>	<b>Puget</b>	<b>Howe</b>	<b>Grewal</b>
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

**COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

9. **Director’s Reports/Comments/Suggestion**

None

10. **Reports of General Interest**

a) California Strategies – Rusty Areias and David Armanasco

There was a follow-up meeting with Secretary Crowfoot regarding the lack of action from the State on items that have been discussed in Sacramento. The Secretary’s response is that it has been a busy time at the Capital with the drought, wildfires and recall election to contend with. The Hurtado bill (SB559) has been delayed until January because there was an attempt to add language to the bill that Senator Hurtado disapproved of. It will hopefully be discussed next year with proposed funding of one-half Federal and one-half State monies. The matrix for funding opportunities within the Tri-County area has been given to Executive Director Jackson and is currently being reviewed. Looking for grant opportunities through the State Board, DWR and Parks Department.

b) Tulare Lake Subbasin Update – Deanna Jackson / Amer Hussain

- The comments for the Tulare Lake Subbasin GSP have not yet been received. It has been noted that there will be batches of comments coming out and that the Tulare Lake comments may come in one of the earlier batches since there is only one GSP amongst the GSAs. When responses are submitted, DWR will be looking for strikeouts and additions/changes added to the current document so that the updates can easily be seen. Each GSA Board will have the responsibility of reviewing and voting to approve all GSP revisions.
- The 2022 Annual Report due in April has already been started with data gathering. The expected first draft will be in February for review and comments returned by March.
- The Tulare Lake Subbasin is currently in discussion with consultants for model updates.
- Tolling agreement is still in place with Westlands Water District.
- There are some drought relief grants in draft form at this time for critically over-drafted basins. Funds could be in the amount of \$200 million. If it’s determined that there is a project that benefits the subbasin, the Board may be asked to write a letter of support.
- Round 2 Proposition 68 funds (\$70 million) will be available again after the start of 2022. This is a competitive grant opportunity with only a few projects chosen for each subbasin submission.

c) Legal Counsel Report – Jason Howard  
None

d) Other updates, as appropriate

Director Brown and Director Grewal were reminded to have their respective Boards take action to reaffirm their status on the Board as their terms expire in November. It was noted that Reclamation District #761 needs to name an alternate Director to the Board.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

11. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of October 1, 2021, meeting, Vice Chair Grewal adjourned the meeting at 2:02 pm until the next Regular Meeting on December 3, 2021, at 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, or as otherwise directed by the Board.

Attest:



Kim Brown, Secretary



Mark Grewal, Vice Chair