SOUTHWEST KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
Special Board Meeting
Minutes
April 11, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. The meeting was available via Zoom for interested parties.

Chair Vidovich presided and Mr. Hutchings recorded the minutes.

Directors Present: John Vidovich, Chair
Michael Nordstrom
Jim Wilson
Craig Andrew

Directors Absent:

Others Present: Amer Hussain, Geosyntec
Jared Hutchings, Manager
Riley Jones
Doug Jackson, Water and Land Solutions
Matthew Bao
Matt Hutton, LACSD
Rachel Becker, Cal Matters
Bobby Phillips, Westlands Water District
Justin Rowe
Breanna Larman, Kings County Farm Bureau

The meeting was called to order at 2:20 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

ACTION CALENDAR

1. Review and consider appointing a Director representative to the ACWA JPIA Board of Directors and an alternate representative.

   On the motion of Director Andrew and seconded by Director Nordstrom, the Board appointed Director Nordstrom as its Director representative and Jared Hutchings as the alternate representative to the ACWA JPIA Board of Directors. (4-0)

DISCUSSION

2. Review upcoming Tulare Lake Subbasin Probationary Hearing with State Board on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

   Chair Vidovich summarized the proposed fees discussed at earlier meetings. $50/AF up to .6 AF, then $240/AF thereafter.

   Mr. Hussain reviewed the status of the proposed GSP and the difficulty of submitting to the State when they don't have a mechanism set up for receiving updated documents. Due to uploading issues, the GSA Manager will arrive on the day of the State Hearing with the document on a flash drive and deliver it electronically. Prior to the State Hearing, the document will be sent to all GSA managers to post on their individual websites which will include the entire document plus appendices. As the document relates specifically to SWK, it commits to a few Project Management Actions (PMA):

   - Well registration. Identify all active wells and remove those in the database which have been destroyed. Capped wells that may come back online at a later date will still be included. Specific data on each well will be used to know the depth, location, perforations, and other construction details.
   - Shallow well mitigation program for any domestic wells that might be impacted as water levels fall. At this time, the databases currently in use indicate that there should not be any wells impacted by the water levels being considered now. There should be no reason to anticipate needing to implement this program for SWK. The program will reflect similar aspects being used by the other GSAs in the Subbasin.
   - Meter policy. The GSA currently has a policy in place but the commitment will now be to enforce the policy which requires metering a well that pumps more than 2 AF/year.
   - Well permitting policy. If a new well is going to be installed anywhere in the boundaries of SWK, the GSA will require that a subsidence study must be completed to show that the pumping from the new well will not cause any further subsidence to the CA Aqueduct.
   - Support for the Disadvantaged Community. Not currently in the document but could easily be added. The GSA could show that they are working closely with the Community of Kettleman City with help to identify and address water concerns with outreach, education and funding towards water savings programs. There has not been an immediate problem for water quality identified and the Board was not committed to collecting funds for something nonexistent at this time. A call to the Community Services District would answer the question of whether a financial commitment is needed.

Mr. Hussain's final point of the plan revision was to note the different management zones that would appear in the document submitted to the State. The three management zones for subsidence are: the area around the CA Aqueduct at 2'; the El Rico management area at 10'; and the remainder of the Subbasin with a total of 6' of subsidence.

Director Nordstrom reported at a recent meeting with a State Board Director that with so few ag wells and only one domestic well, their recommendation was that the GSA should consider applying for the "Good Actor" provision.

ADJOURNMENT

3. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the April 11, 2024, meeting, Chair Vidovich adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m. until the special Board meeting, scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2024, at 2:00 pm, at 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, or as otherwise directed by the Board.

Attest:

Michael Nordstrom, Vice Chair

Jim Wilson, Secretary