JPA Special Board Meeting Minutes
Kern Non-Districted Land Authority (KNDLA)
Friday, December 13, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

JPA DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES PRESENT

Derek Yurosek, Arvin-Edison
Amrit Mangat, Buena Vista
Spencer Birch, Cawelo
Tom McCarthy, KCWA ID4
Eric McDaris, Kern Water Bank
Kevin Andrew, North Kern
Royce Fast, Pioneer
Barry Watts, RRBWSD
Dan Waterhouse, Semitropic
Brandon Morris, Southern San Joaquin
Dolores Salgado, TCWD (arrived at 2:09 pm)
Gary Morris, West Kern
Rob Goff, Westside District Water Authority
Michael Blaine, Wheeler Ridge

1. **Roll Call**
   Quorum Determination—Chairman Watts called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. after confirming the presence of a quorum, which met the threshold required under the JPA agreement.
2. **Flag Salute**
   Completed.
3. **Public Input**
   None.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
   a. **October 28, 2024**
      A motion was made by Director Waterhouse and seconded by Director Yurosek to approve the October 28, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Director McDaris and Chairman Watts abstained. Despite the abstentions, the motion passed.
5. **Financial Report**
   a. **Financial Report & Accounts Payable**
      Ms. Grass presented the November 2024 Financial Report, highlighting cash calls, deposits, disbursements, receivables, and grant balances. Approval was requested for accounts payable totaling $1,000, as detailed in Exhibit E.
      A motion to approve the financial report and disbursements was made by Director Fast and seconded by Director Blaine. The motion carried unanimously.
   b. **Consideration Adoption of the 2025 Budget**
      Ms. Grass presented the proposed 2025 budget, projecting expenditures of $91,636.24 out of a 2024 budget of $107,950. The proposed 2025 budget included allocations for administrative services, legal and technical support, well mitigation,

and outreach, totaling $592,300. She recommended collecting $312,300 from the 20 member agencies in two cash calls, with an additional $280,000 earmarked for well mitigation if required.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Director Waterhouse and seconded by Director Yurosek to approve the 2025 budget, with amendments deferring cash calls for well mitigation and technical services until necessary. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Administration**
    a. **Consideration of Appointment of Executive Officer**

    Chairman Watts introduced Ms. Jenny Holtermann as the recommended candidate for the Executive Officer position. Ms. Holtermann provided an overview of her qualifications and proposed contributions.

    After discussion, a motion was made by Director Morris and seconded by Director Birch to negotiate a legal agreement with Ms. Holtermann. The motion passed unanimously.
7. **White Area Representatives**
    a. **Extended Date of Nomination and Update on Representative Appointment Process**

    Chairman Watts recommended extending the deadline for non-districted land representative nominations to January 20, 2025, to allow for additional outreach. A motion to extend the deadline was made by Director Goff and seconded by Director Morris. The motion passed unanimously.
8. **DWR Grant Administration**
    a. **Report on DWR Grant Administration**

    Mr. Gianquinto reported on the reissuance of pay request no. 7 and submission of pay request no. 8 to the DWR.
    b. **Ratify Approval of Grant Amendment**

    Chairman Watts summarized updates to the grant amendment, emphasizing coordination with DWR.

    A motion to ratify the grant amendment was made by Director Birch and seconded by Director Fast. The motion passed unanimously.
9. **County of Kern Participation**
    a. **Kern County Participation Ad hoc Committee**

    Chairman Watts tabled this item for the next meeting.
10. **Kern Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)**
    a. **Update on Representative Monitor Well Access Agreements**

    Ms. Echeverria reported on finalized and pending well-access agreements for KNDLA representative monitoring wells.
    b. **Consideration of Setting of Member Reserves for Well Mitigation Program**

    Mr. Taylor recommended earmarking $280,000 in reserves for the Well Mitigation Program due to the number of domestic wells in KNDLA's jurisdiction.

    A motion to approve was made by Director Blaine and seconded by Director McCarthy. The motion passed unanimously.

c. **Public Hearing to consider the adoption of the 2024 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and supporting appendix of projects and management actions for the Kern County Subbasin of the Tulare Lake Groundwater Basin**
Chairman Watts opened the public hearing and confirmed with Ms. Kincaid that the hearing notice had been properly issued. Ms. Hearn provided a summary of the 2024 GSP, including key development efforts, public outreach, major revisions to address deficiencies identified by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and next steps.
Angela Islas inquired whether the presentation would be available to the public, and Chairman Watts confirmed it would be posted online. Mr. Blakslee relayed public input about insufficient coordination with the oil industry on subsidence issues. Director Yurosek recommended considering an oil industry representative for the non-districted representative position.

d. **Consideration of Adoption of the 2024 GSP**
With no further questions or comments during the public hearing, Director Fast moved to adopt the 2024 GSP and the motion was seconded by Director Birch. The motion was unanimously approved.

e. **Consider approving the Second Amendment Kern County Subbasin Coordination Agreement among Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies**
Ms. Kincaid presented the Second Amendment to the Kern County Subbasin Coordination Agreement, emphasizing that SGMA requires a coordination agreement when multiple plans are submitted.
Director Yurosek moved to approve the Second Amendment, and the motion was seconded by Director Goff. The motion was unanimously approved.

f. **Consideration of a contract with Self-Help Enterprises to administer the Kern County Subbasin Domestic Well Mitigation Program**
Mr. Taylor presented a proposed contract with Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) to administer the Kern County Subbasin Domestic Well Mitigation Program. He explained that SHE would provide emergency water services, conduct well-site assessments, and manage mitigation activities.
Director McCarthy moved to approve the contract with SHE, and Director Waterhouse seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

g. **Responses to SWP Review of the Kern County Subbasin GSA 2024 GSP**
Chairman Watts informed the Board of a letter he had signed addressing the Department of Water Resources (DWR) regarding responses to the SWP review of the Kern County Subbasin GSP. He emphasized the importance of transparency and proposed posting the letter on the KNDLA website.

11. **Legal**

a. **Statewide Update**
Ms. Kincaid provided an update on statewide SGMA matters. She reported that DWR is working on managing interconnected surface waters, which fall under two distinct legal frameworks. She also discussed the status of six GSPs deemed inadequate: two have undergone probationary hearings, one had its hearing removed, and three are pending. Ms. Kincaid noted that while some basins have yet to revise their plans, others are making adjustments as recommended by the State.

12. **New Business**
    None.
13. **Correspondence**
    None.
14. **Closed Session**
    a. **Potential Litigation – Government Code Section 54956.9(d)2**
       The Board entered closed session at 3:18 p.m. and reconvened at 3:25 p.m. Chairman Watts reported that no actions were taken during the session.
15. **Adjournment**
    Director Birch moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Fast. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.