JPA Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Kern Groundwater Authority
April 24, 2024 8:00 a.m.
Participation by Teleconference/ZOOM

JPA DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES PRESENT
Royce Fast, Kern County Water Agency
Kim Brown, Kern Water Bank Authority
Dan Waterhouse, Semitropic WSD
Gary Morris, West Kern WD
Rob Goff, Westside District Water Authority

JPA DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT
Andrew Pandol, Kern-Tulare WD
Chad Hathaway, Eastside Water Management Area (non-voting member)

OTHERS PRESENT/PARTICIPATING
Valerie Kincaid, Paris Kincaid Wasiewski LLP

1. **Roll Call - Quorum Determination** – Chairman Waterhouse called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. after it was confirmed there was a quorum. The Board met the threshold for a quorum under the JPA and operated under it.

2. **Flag Salute** – Completed.

3. **Public Input** – None.

4. **Approval of Minutes**
   a. February Regular Board Meeting Minutes*
   A motion was made by Director Goff and seconded by Director Brown to approve the February 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

5. **Treasurer's Report**
   a. Financial Report & Accounts Payable – February*
   b. Financial Report & Accounts Payable – March*
   Ms. Kincaid presented the Accountant's Report for February and March 2024 and requested approval for the disbursement of accounts payable in the amount of $187,764.03 as presented in Exhibit E for February and $15,966.66 for the month of March. She highlighted deposits, disbursements, and receivables in Exhibits A, B, and C and grant balances in Exhibit D. An inquiry was made on the status of the pending check from the DWR that KGA has been expecting receipt of in order to satisfy payment of various pending invoices. Ms. Kincaid confirmed that the check had not been received

and that a follow-up would be made to the DWR on the check's status. A motion was made by Director Goff and seconded by Director Brown to approve the financial reports and disbursement of payments as advised by Ms. Kincaid. The motion was unanimously carried.

6. **Attorneys Report**

a. Update on State Water Resources Control Board Probationary Process for Tulare Lake

Ms. Kincaid provided an update on the Tulare Lake Subbasin being placed on probationary status and discussed public comments following SWRCB's decision. She advised that some things worth noting to those who extract surface water, it is not clear whether stored surface water is specifically exempt from fees and reporting requirements. Additionally, she discussed the potential overreach of authority by the State Board in several areas.

She also noted that discussions were held on the fee-setting process and how the fees would be utilized. She stated that SWRCB staff plans to develop a FAQ to help address concerns related to the intervention process.

b. Groundwater Legislation

Ms. Kincaid provided an overview of new legislation (828) that would exempt disadvantaged communities and wetlands from SGMA regulation by GSAs.

Bennett bill – AB 2079. Limitation on large diameter wells, which requires permitting agencies to make several findings related to the location, existing conditions, and other information from GSAs.
1563 – Requires permitting agencies to evaluate new well impacts on subsidence and existing well impact prior to approving. She stressed that DWR is committing great efforts to addressing subsidence and incomplete determinations.

7. **DWR Grant**

a. Update on DWR Grant

Mr. Gianquinto indicated that construction was progressing smoothly and advised that he would be working on the next pay request.

b. Action to facilitate grant submission and/or payment distribution. *

No action taken. Item to be discussed at a later date.

8. **Authorize new DWR point of contact for DWR Grant.**

a. Action authorizing Jason Gianquinto to communicate with DWR and sign behalf of KGA for administration of DWR contracts. *

Ms. Kincaid confirmed that an email had been sent to the DWR indicating that Jason Gianquinto would be replacing Patty Poire as the point of contact for the grant. The Board opted not to vote on this item as Ms. Kincaid noted the DWR had already

acknowledged the transition.

9. **Revised Joint Powers Authority**

   a. Review and potentially consider action on Revised KGA JPA. *

   Ms. Kincaid noted that this item had been discussed previously at the coordination committee and requested the Board's feedback to relay back to the committee. Dan Waterhouse requested that more representation for white area interests be integrated into the revised JPA. The KGA will not be signing the JPA, but it is the document that forms the Agency. Therefore, no action was taken, but the existing KGA supports the restatement and reformation.

10. **Revised KGA Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

   a. Update and discussion on KGA GSP revisions.

   Stephanie Hearn highlighted unaccounted GSA boundaries and discussed the need for revisions to KGA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan. She recommended that a new package of maps be submitted as one single set to formalize the recent data that best captures KGA's current territory.

11. **New Business** – None.

12. **Correspondence** – Received and filed.

   a. Kern County Water Agency Letter dated 4.12.24.

13. **Closed Session** – No reportable action out of closed session.

14. **Adjournment** – 9:45 a.m.