JPA Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Kern Groundwater Authority
Wednesday, February 28, 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 8:00 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. January Regular Board Meeting Minutes*
   A motion was made by Director Goff and seconded by Director Brown to approve the January 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

5. **Treasurer's Report**
   a. Financial Report & Accounts Payable – January*
   Ms. Kincaid referred the Board to the Accountant's Report for January 2024 and requested approval of the disbursement of accounts payable in the amount of $16,949.19 as presented in Exhibit E. She noted that deposits, disbursements, cash calls, receivables, and grant statuses could be seen in Exhibits A, B, C and D. A motion was made by Director Fast and seconded by Director Gary Morris to approve the financial report and disbursement of payments as advised by Ms. Kincaid. The motion was unanimously carried.

6. **Attorneys Report**

a. Legislative Subcommittee Hearing on SGMA Update February 21, 2024

Ms. Kincaid noted that the hearing was comprised of two panels providing a SGMA update. She stated that the DWR was at the tail-end of evaluating plans and would soon be focusing its efforts on implementation. She noted that it was confirmed that January 2025 would remain the subbasin hearing date with the Tulare Lake Basin still scheduled for April 16, 2024. She also noted that the State Water Board gave its staff direction to examine the current fee basis and determine if they were too high. She noted that the assembly committee had requested information on where money from these fees would go and noted that many believed not investing the funds in sustainability was a bad idea.

She concluded by noting that two policies were emphasized: the transition of farm workers, and the fallowing of agriculture and the impacts on air quality.

b. Interconnected Surface Water Guidance from DWR

Ms. Kincaid stated that DWR released its first paper which is one of a three-part series on interconnected surface water guidance. The second would be techniques for estimating and the third would provide examples of approaches.

She noted that although the DWR did not fail anyone during its analysis, it made some technical conclusions that are worth GSAs looking into.

Ms. Kincaid recommended that members review the guidance and provide comments to the DWR on implementation and potential environmental challenges.

c. Update on GSP Litigation Statewide

Ms. Kincaid stated that the DWR issued 13 inadequate determinations but highlighted that it had received 6 challenges. She noted that the DWR is getting sued for the first time and expected to defend its determinations in court.

7. **DWR Grant**

a. Update on DWR Grant

Mr. Gianquinto confirmed that the reimbursement claim for September to December 2023 had been submitted and USGS has mobilized for the construction work.

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

No action made.

8. **Election of Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer**

a. Section 3.02 of the Joint Powers Authority requires the election of officers of Chair and Vice Chair. Section 4.02 requires the KGA select a member as treasurer to serve as the fiscal agent of the Authority. These positions require a nomination, a second and majority vote. *

Ms. Kincaid reminded the Board of its need for a fiscal agent and requested nominations. A motion was made by Director Fast and seconded by Director Gary Morris for Dan Waterhouse to remain as Chair, Royce Fast as Vice Chair, and Rob Goff as Treasurer. The motion was unanimously carried.

9. **Annual Report**
   a. **Update on Annual Report development and submission to DWR.**
   Ms. Kincaid confirmed Todd Groundwater is still working on the annual report and that she expects an update in March at the coordination level.

10. **Form 700**
   a. **Form 700 Reminder**
   Ms. Kincaid confirmed that she was in receipt of some forms and reminded the Board to submit to her prior to the upcoming deadline on April 1, 2024.

11. **New Business** – None.

12. **Correspondence** – None.

13. **Closed Session** – No reportable action reported.

14. **Adjournment** – At 8:26 a.m. open session convened into closed session.