CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by President Watkins at 9:02 a.m. in the Conference Room of the District office located at 17207 Industrial Farm Road, Bakersfield, CA.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
a) Introductions – Mr. Ansolabehere welcomed all in attendance, introduced CWD Board of Directors, CWD Legal Counsel, CWD staff, and attendees were provided a brief background regarding Cawelo Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CGSA). Mr. Ansolabehere introduced Mr. Dave Hampton to present the workshop agenda items.
b) SGMA and Cawelo GSA Updates – As well as providing a PowerPoint slide presentation on the boardroom monitor, Mr. Hampton provided an update on the local SGMA activities including discussions regarding the other GSAs and membership of the KGA. The KGA discussion included the format on developing an umbrella GSP that will include member sections which are essentially individual GSP chapters. Continued coordination between KGA and their members is occurring. Other GSAs, that are not a member of the KGA, are developing independent GSPs which are required to be coordinated as required by SGMA.

In regard to SGMA coverage for non-districted areas, Mr. Hampton discussed the issues that remain with those lands and there remain many non-districted land areas that have not obtained coverage. Cawelo GSA has modified its GSA boundary to include certain non-districted land. This modification also transferred industrial land at the south end of the District to Kern River GSA. At present, full Cawelo GSA Area is 62,616 acres; CWD area within the GSA is 44,017 acres; Eastern Extension Area is 18,600 acres and the industrial area that has been transferred is 1,707 acres.

Mr. Hampton noted that Cawelo GSA and Cawelo Water District are two distinct and separate entities.

Mr. Hampton reported that all KGA Member administrative draft GSPs have been submitted to the KGA which is currently reviewing drafts and presenting management area information for their umbrella GSP. The schedule for the GSP review process was presented.

Mr. Hampton noted that the Cawelo GSP continues to be developed, and referenced today’s workshop to receive stakeholder input, the upcoming August 8, 2019 Cawelo GSA Board of Directors meeting that will include a review of the latest draft GSP, Staff requests for continued updates, and that the drafts will be publicly available.
c) Draft Groundwater Budget – Mr. Hampton reported that a groundwater model is required for the sub basin and Todd Groundwater was contracted with to develop that model. Todd Groundwater is using DWR’s C2VSim model that covers the Central
Valley and refined it to better fit the conditions of the southern end of the valley. It was noted that the model only accounts for volumes of water and does not consider or determine who “owns” the water. Cawelo has also contracted directly with Todd Groundwater to develop the Cawelo GSA GSP and to model the GSA area.

Mr. Hampton presented draft Groundwater Model results specific to Cawelo that contained preliminary results indicating an average change in groundwater storage of approximately -9,600 Acre-ft. per year.

An inquiry was made as to whether the groundwater model was developed using Cawelo’s demand and the current area acreage.

In response, Mr. Hampton responded that the model is based on the current GSA acreage, excluding the industrial areas at the south portion of the District.

An inquiry was made as to whether Cawelo Water District has room to build groundwater basins.

In response, President Watkins reported that the Board of Directors and staff are considering potential projects. Mr. Hampton noted that the District is considering different options to increasing storage capacity.

An inquiry was made as to whether the actual Cawelo GSA water budget is currently in better standing than the numbers that were provided during 1995-2014 study period.

In response, Mr. Hampton responded that the numbers are preliminary, but he believes they are fair.

Mr. Hampton further presented a draft Cawelo GSA checkbook water budget evaluating the surface water and groundwater operations. The methodology used was consistent with the best management practices provided by DWR. The draft checkbook water budget indicated an estimated average change in groundwater storage of approximately -10,800 Acre-ft. per year. Additionally, a third draft budget was developed to coordinate with the KGA and its members. This water budget uses a high level evaluation of surface water supplies used in the basin area and uses estimated values for the potential native yield and precipitation. The last coordinated budget indicated a change in groundwater storage for the Cawelo GSA to be about -6,800 Acre-ft.

Additionally, draft groundwater budget projections are required out to another 50 years after 2020, using 2030 and 2070 climate change estimates, and Mr. Hampton reviewed Cawelo GSA’s draft projected future water balances for those scenarios.

d) **Draft Sustainable Yield** – Mr. Hampton reported that Cawelo GSA has developed a draft Sustainable Yield using the water budget information. Cawelo GSA’s goal is to manage groundwater levels at or above historical low GW levels with management actions that create zero or positive groundwater storage changes. Cawelo GSA further examined the 3 water budgeting methods and corresponding deficits. From the information presented, it was reported the draft budgets indicate a potential sustainable yield range of 30,000 Af to 54,000 Af per year on average.

e) **Groundwater Monitoring Network** – Mr. Hampton reported that SGMA BMP’s recommend a well monitoring network with a well density of 4 wells for an area the size of the Cawelo GSA. It was noted that Cawelo Water District has an extensive well monitoring network and wells were evaluated for an appropriate GW monitoring network. Mr. Hampton presented a slide indicating seven wells proposed for the monitoring location including a potential eighth well.
f) **Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds** – Mr. Hampton discussed Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds for the Cawelo GSA. Mr. Hampton also discussed historical water levels for the Cawelo area and how the historical records indicate water levels have been relatively stable with some trends that appear to correlate to the estimated change in groundwater storage. It was proposed that the Measurable Objectives be set to the historical groundwater levels measured at the corresponding monitoring wells. For Minimum Thresholds, it was proposed that groundwater levels be used as a proxy to indicate potential undesirable results for chronic lower of levels and depletion of groundwater storage but it was also noted that the lack of monitoring, coupled with the potential for future climate, could not establish a correlation between groundwater levels and water quality. The Cawelo GSA is considering and evaluating using a particular constituent concentration to establish Minimum Thresholds for water quality concerns. Mr. Hampton briefly discussed land subsidence issues and indicated that Cawelo GSA is planning to participate in a joint subsidence monitoring effort at the basin level. It was proposed that an undesirable result would be triggered when at least 3 monitoring wells have simultaneously exceeded their corresponding Minimum Thresholds for 3 consecutive years. This could also apply to the potential MTs for water quality. Currently, water levels are above Measurable Objectives, but process for implementing projects has already begun and will continue in anticipation of future conditions.

g) **Management Actions for Sustainability** – Mr. Hampton discussed several different projects and management actions the Cawelo Water District is considering and indicated the range of water supply benefits or demand reduction actions were well above the projected shortfalls. The District has already begun the process to implement supply projects. The District will continue to evaluate the status of supply acquisitions as we approach 2030 and then begin demand reduction actions as required.

C. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – The floor was open for public comments, at which time an inquiry was made as to if today’s presentation would be made available. In response, Mr. Hampton reported that the presentation will be provided on Cawelo Water District’s website.

Inquiry was made as to what CWD is doing to obtain water. In response, Director Watkins stated that the water is there, but costly. In cooperation with the landowners, CWD will have to evaluate different projects and determine if landowners are willing to fund new water projects and/or demand reduction management actions that involve voluntary land use conversion, crop conversion and crop land acquisition.

Inquiry was made regarding irrigated vs. non-irrigated district land totals. Mr. Hampton responded that about 35k acres are irrigated. Director Watkins continued that about 20% of district land is fallow on a yearly basis. Mr. Hampton agreed and stated that those are consistent with the reported numbers for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

A Landowner inquired about when CWD will start the Proposition 218 process. Mr. Hampton, Mr. Ansolabehere and Director Watkins discussed the process for securing long-term contracts and establishing the need for a Prop 218. If unsuccessful, then the CWD could turn to establishing a water purchase fund which would also likely require a Prop 218 process, which could probably be completed in about 2 years.
Inquiry was made as to the irrigation demand basin wide on non-districted land. Patty Poire (KGA) responded that there is very little demand – most irrigators are covered and the areas left uncovered generally consist of grazers and oil companies.

It was asked, if you pump more, should you pay more because that is not currently happening. Mr. Hampton responded that those things are all under evaluation now as well as how to allocate groundwater to landowners. Attorney Hartsock commented that all non-districted lands that have been included in the CGSA have acknowledged that they will not be receiving any district supply.

It was asked how the 18,000 non-districted acres are being handled. Mr. Hampton responded that it is included as non-irrigated and native lands and their sustainable yield would be the same as their native yield. They would not be allocated any of CWD’s water.

Inquiry was made regarding how overdraft conditions will be covered since we are at a negative 10k. Mr. Hampton responded that the plan is to acquire additional supplies. The goal is to try to bring in enough water to meet the projected deficit using 2070 climate change numbers. Patty Poire (KGA) added that the basin is in overdraft so business as usual cannot continue. Mr. Hampton continued that the entire basin, under current conditions and with full project implementation is projected to be sustainable by 2040. Patty Poire stated that all GSAs must comply with the definition of undesirable results. If any wells exceed MT’s that “immediate action” will be required for that area.

Inquiry made as to why the Cawelo GSA only went out 10 years in the methodology to establish MTs. Mr. Hampton commented that it was an internal decision based on solid methodology that Cawelo GSA believes would be acceptable by DWR.

Further inquiry was made regarding potential process to change MTs to those similar of neighbors using a variation of a methodology that uses a 20 year projection. Mr. Hampton responded that plans required updates every five years and allows for modifications in the plan, if necessary. If DWR accepts neighbor methodologies to set MTs then they should accept a potential MT change to those same methodologies. The Cawelo GSA is currently coordinating with neighboring management areas.

Mr. Hampton reported that the 1st annual report is due to SGMA in April, 2020.

D. The Cawelo Groundwater Sustainability Agency special board meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

[Signature]
Brian Blackwell, Board Secretary