

CAWELO GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Conference Room at Cawelo Water District's Office

Friday, September 13, 2019

8:30 a.m.

MINUTES

DIRECTORS PRESENT:	Keith Watkins, Mark Smith, Eric Miller, John Gaugel, Brian Blackwell
STAFF PRESENT:	David Ansolabehere, Dave Hampton, LeeAnn Giles, Celynn Lyman
LEGAL COUNSEL:	Robert Hartsock
OTHER ATTENDEES:	Garrett Burns, Jeff Looker, Andy Schweikart

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Watkins at 8:30 a.m. in the Cawelo Water District's Conference Room located at 17207 Industrial Farm Road, Bakersfield, CA.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments at this time.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

The minutes of Board workshop for August 5, 2019 and the minutes of Board meeting for August 8, 2019 were presented for approval. After review and discussion, *it was motioned by Director Blackwell, seconded by Director Smith and unanimously carried that the minutes from August 5, 2019 and August 8, 2019 be approved as presented.*

D. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Update on SGMA Activities – Mr. Hampton reported that Friday KGA members and GSA meetings continue with recent focus on coordination and water budgets. Mr. Hampton also discussed the last KGA Board meeting held August 28, 2019. Each member provided a brief summary presentation of their chapter plans and answered any questions. The KGA Board did authorize the release of all chapter sections and to provide notice regarding the GSP and its availability.

Mr. Hampton explained that KGA staff has requested potential revision to template agreements between both Landowner(s) and District *and* the District and the KGA, regarding the ability of a landowner to challenge a GSP chapter.

Mr. Hartsock provided background regarding Kern County's withdrawal from the KGA and the KGA's efforts to cover undistricted lands, using the KCWA's jurisdiction and various agreements. As part of agreement (in order to more fully protect KGA Members), KGA included a provision where landowners could not challenge the plan. Valerie Kincaid has prepared documents (at the request of the KGA Board) that would eliminate said provision and allow landowners to challenge a GSP chapter. The decision may not, ultimately, matter because Special Activity Agreement #4 provides generally that each chapter indemnifies the other for chapter specific matters. Valerie Kincaid has revised the agreements that are in accordance with KGA's intent to allow a landowner to challenge GSP chapters.

Mr. Hartsock commented that a coordination agreement has previously been prepared and agreed to by most GSAs, including the Cawelo GSA. Neither the Buena Vista nor Henry Miller water district(s) have agreed and have proposed a revised coordination agreement. Mr. Hartsock states that he believes the intent of said revised agreement is to allow the committee to set policy, and recommends the CWD not support such modifications. President Watkins submits that CWD should review the presented plan, as written, and withhold support.

- 1) **Update on Basin/Cawelo Groundwater Model – ?.**
- 2) **Update on Cawelo GSP** – Mr. Hampton reported that the August 29th version of CWD GSA GSP review draft is up on the District's website as well as the KGA's as one of the chapters. Recent revisions include the exclusion of unnecessary water quality information and modifications to the Basin Setting sections. Cawelo is still reviewing the methodologies for setting minimum thresholds. Some comments are expected on coordination of minimum thresholds. The GSP is still within budget with about 70% of Todd Groundwater allocation used, to date. The key sections of the plan such as groundwater budget, groundwater model, native-yield and sustainable yield estimates, 2030-2070 projections, minimum thresholds, and the sustainability projects are largely complete and the other minor sections need additional work.

Mr. Hampton recommends that CWD provide a Notice of Availability of Draft GSP as required by SGMA. After review and discussion, *it was motioned by Director Gaugel, seconded by Director Blackwell and unanimously carried that the Notice of Availability of Draft GSP, be approved and presented.*

- 3) **Update on CGSA Expansion Area** – This point was not discussed.

E. CLOSED SESSION:

- 1) **To confer with legal counsel regarding potential litigation under authority of Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2)(3):**

The Board did not go into closed session.

F. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

- G. ADJOURNMENT** – The Cawelo Groundwater Sustainability Agency meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.



Brian Blackwell, CGSA Board Secretary