

**CAWELO GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

*Cawelo Water District Conference Room*

*Thursday, November 11, 2021 – 8:50a.m.*

**17207 Industrial Farm Road, Bakersfield CA 93308**

**Public Participation Possible via Zoom 1-(669)-900-6833**

**Meeting ID: 878 7118 6001 / Password: 920761**

**Or via Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87871186001?pwd=YndIZEh6RnlySlg2aUZxOCsxSDBGUT09>

**MINUTES**

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<b>DIRECTORS PRESENT:</b>	Keith Watkins, Mark Smith, John Gaugel, Spencer Birch
<b>DIRECTORS ABSENT:</b>	Brian Blackwell
<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	David Ansolabehere, Dave Halopoff, LeeAnn Giles, Celynn Lyman
<b>LEGAL COUNSEL:</b>	Robert Hartsock
<b>OTHER ATTENDEES:</b>	Maryse Suppiger

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The Special Board Meeting was called to order by President Watkins at 8:50 a.m.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments at this time.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS**

The minutes of Special Board Meeting for October 14, 2021 were presented for approval. After review and discussion, *it was motioned by Director Gaugel, seconded by Director Smith and unanimously carried, that the minutes from October 14, 2021 be approved as presented.*

**D. UPDATE ON LOCAL SGMA ACTIVITIES**

In addition to providing a written report, Mr. Halopoff reported that semi-annual groundwater level reporting for fall 2021 is due to the Kern Groundwater Authority (KGA) by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Halopoff advised that GEI provided a progress report on the Kern subbasin DMS to the managers group. To date, GEI has invoiced for approximately \$170,000 of the approved \$229,500 budget (75%). There is approximately \$210,000 in remaining DWR grant funding for the DMS and the group is discussing additional modules to develop in the DMS to utilize the grant funding. Optional modules to develop for the DMS include, but are not limited to:

- Additional Reporting Support;
- Additional Hosting and Technical Support by GEI;
- Subsidence Data Incorporation; and
- Import DWR Well Completion Reports.

The managers group will meet in December to continue discussions on the Kern Subbasin DMS improvements to utilize the available grant funding.

Todd Groundwater has provided the revised Basinwide Water Budget Upgrades and Model Calibration for the Kern County Subbasin (Basin Study) proposal. The Basin Study proposal focuses on a systematic technical analysis of all water budget components and providing an updated Kern Subbasin CV2SimFG-Kern Model based on a comprehensive compilation and analysis of available data. The Basin Study will develop a technical analysis to better represent the flow of groundwater and surface water information, through, and out of the Subbasin based on data included in the GSPs and supporting data and documentation. This will provide for a basinwide planning model designed to support SGMA compliance through a consistent approach for determining water budgets and evaluating groundwater and surface water conditions. Ultimately, the work product will provide a technical assessment that better quantifies the Subbasin water budgets – both basinwide and locally – through a systematic analysis of available data and updating the CV2SimFG-Kern model.

The Basin Study budget is \$2,514,630 to be completed over approximately 44 months – with a majority of the technical work being completed over the first 24-months. In order to meet the pending 2025 GSP Update submittal date, a start date of April 2022 is necessary. DWR grant funding is expected to be available for the Basin Study.

- 1) After review and discussion, *it was motioned by Director Birch, seconded by Director Gaugel and unanimously carried, that Director Gaugel has the authority to approve the Todd Groundwater Scope of work at the KGA Meeting when such issue arises, as presented.*

The use of satellite remote sensing for evapotranspiration (ET) data has become a vital link in the Kern Subbasin to determine the agronomic water demand as part of the methodology to determine groundwater pumping. For the 2020 GSP and subsequent Annual Reports, satellite remote sensing ET data from 1993 to 2020 were obtained from the Irrigation & Training Research Center (ITRC) based at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. However, the Managers were recently notified ITRC will no longer be providing this service as private companies and open-source ET data has become available. Currently, there are two (2) readily available sources for ET data: i) LandIQ, and ii) OpenET.

LandIQ has been providing remote sensing ET services for multiple years and many Kern County water districts are currently in contract with LandIQ for these services. LandIQ has the ability to provide specialized, field scale ET based on satellite data, local weather station data, and field ground truthing.

OpenET was developed by NASA, EDF, Desert Ranch Institute, HabitatSeven, and additional collaborators including universities, USGS, and USDA Agricultural Research Service. OpenET data became available to the public October 2021. For profit entities and other organizations requiring large-scale access (>2,500-acres) to OpenET data will be able to purchase the data. Large-scale access to ET data will not be available until early 2022 and at this time, cost(s) are not provided.

Staff requested LandIQ to prepare a proposal for annual satellite remote sensing ET data and it is intended to be presented at the December 2021 Special Board Meeting.

The KGA is expecting to receive DWR comments on the GSP before the end of the year.

A copy of the September 2021 KGA Board Meeting Agenda was included with one item to note. The KGA Board approved the 2022 KGA Budget for a total of \$551,000 or \$30,638.89 for each KGA General Member.

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

The CGSA Special Board meeting adjourned at approximately 9:04 a.m. The next regular CGSA Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 2021.

*Brian Blackwell*

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Brian Blackwell, CGSA Board Secretary