

**CAWELO GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Cawelo Water District Conference Room

Thursday, January 13, 2021 – 8:50a.m.

17207 Industrial Farm Road, Bakersfield CA 93308

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

Meeting ID: 842 0469 5224 / Passcode: 472816

Or via Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84204695224?pwd=Z29wdmJYWEJiWjJ2ekIrb2YvK3NWQT09>

MINUTES

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Keith Watkins, Mark Smith, John Gaugel, Spencer Birch

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: David Ansolabehere, Dave Halopoff, LeeAnn Giles, Celynn Lyman

LEGAL COUNSEL: Robert Hartsock

OTHER ATTENDEES: Molly Thurman

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Special Board Meeting was called to order by President Watkins at 8:52 a.m.

Legal counsel reported that pursuant to California Government Code section 54954.2 (b), an issue arose subsequent to the posting of the meeting agenda that required immediate consideration and action and recommended an addition to the agenda. Legal counsel stated that due to the newly confirmed cases of Covid among Cawelo Board Members and consultants, and the current risk of COVID-19 and variants, the Board should consider the adoption of a resolution authorizing virtual meetings in accordance with AB 361.

After review and discussion **it was motioned by Director Gaugel seconded by Director Smith and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, that Agenda Item B - Consideration and Adoption of CGSA Resolution No. 3 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Cawelo Groundwater Sustainability Agency to Implement Teleconferencing Requirements During a Proclaimed State of Emergency** be added as an additional agenda item:

AYES: 4 Watkins, Smith, Gaugel, Birch
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

B. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF CGSA RESOLUTION NO. 3 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Cawelo Groundwater Sustainability Agency to Implement Teleconferencing Requirements During a Proclaimed State of Emergency.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Smith seconded by Director Gaugel and carried by the following Roll Call Vote, that CGSA Resolution No. 3 - A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Cawelo Groundwater Sustainability Agency to Implement**

Teleconferencing Requirements During a Proclaimed State of Emergency, be approved as presented.

AYES: 4 **Watkins, Smith, Gaugel, Birch**
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments at this time.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

The minutes of Special Board Meeting for December 9, 2021 were presented for approval. After review and discussion, *it was motioned by Director Birch, seconded by Director Smith and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, that the minutes from December 9, 2021 be approved as presented.*

AYES: 4 **Watkins, Smith, Gaugel, Birch**
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

E. UPDATE ON LOCAL SGMA ACTIVITIES

In addition to providing a written report, Mr. Halopoff reported that the Kern Groundwater Authority (KGA) Board voted to approve the Todd Groundwater Basinwide Water Budget Upgrades and Model Calibration for the Kern County Subbasin (Basin Study) at the December 2021 board meeting. DWR grant funding is expected to be available for the Basin Study under the Proposition 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program.

The KGA received an initial DWR comment letter on the Kern Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) dated December 9, 2021. The detailed formal DWR comment letter is expected January 2022 which will begin the 180-day timeline to address the comment letter and update the Kern Subbasin GSP.

The KGA has started internal meetings to discuss how to address and plan for the upcoming DWR comment letter. The KGA has setup a workshop on February 11, 2022 with DWR staff to discuss the Final Determination Letter.

DWR has released the final Proposition 68 SGM Grant Program for SGMA Implementation (Grant) and the application submittal date has been revised to February 18, 2022. The Grant varies significantly from prior versions, providing up to \$7.6 million for basins categorized as critically overdrafted. Grant applications for subbasins are to be submitted utilizing a spending plan concept to DWR detailing eligible projects with a sum of no less than \$10 million. The KGA Managers Group has begun discussions regarding what to include in the spending plan for the Grant. Preliminary discussions have identified the following projects for the subbasin:

- Basin Study
- Subsidence Monitoring Network
 - Two (2) extensometers on the Friant-Kern Canal
 - Two (2) extensometers on the California Aqueduct
- Land IQ Remote Sensing ET for 5-years

The 2021WY Annual Report is due to DWR April 1, 2022 and the KGA has started to facilitate the process of preparing the report. Todd Groundwater will prepare the report with information provided by Management Areas (MAs) and Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). GEI is also going to assist with the 2021WY Annual Report and provide automated hydrographs exported from the Data Management System (DMS) to be included in the report. GEI is also going to automate additional annual report requirements through the DMS for cost savings in the future. GEI's work participating in the annual report will be paid for by the existing DMS grant.

A copy of the December 2021 KGA Board Meeting Agenda was provided to the Board. Items to note include:

- The KGA Board approval of GEI Task Order #19 Response to DWR Determination Letter in the amount of \$75,000 (copy included).
- The KGA Board approval of the Todd Groundwater Basinwide Water Budget Upgrades and Model Calibration for the Kern County Subbasin in the amount of \$2,910,450.
- The KGA Board approval for the Executive Director to begin the 2021 WY Annual Report process.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The CGSA Special Board meeting adjourned at approximately 9:02 a.m. The next regular CGSA Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2022.



CGSA Board Secretary