

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
WESTSIDE DISTRICT WATER AUTHORITY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Held August 28, 2023

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of Westside District Water Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WDWA GSA or Agency) was held on August 28, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. in person at the Belridge Water Storage District office located at 21908 7<sup>th</sup> Standard Road, McKittrick, CA 93251.

CALL TO ORDER )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

Chairman Goff called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

The following directors were present: Rob Goff, Rod Stiefvater, Rob Yraceburu, Jeremy Blackwell, and Bernard Pugét.

Also present were: Mark Gilkey, Justin Rowe, Morgan Campbell, Jamie Marquez, Kim Constant, Alex Dominguez, Morgan Mitchell, Mushtaq Mohideen, Brad Kroeker, and Abbigale Seal.

Also attended by video conference and/or teleconference: Tom Watson

CHANGES TO AGENDA )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

There were no requests to revise the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

The Chairman asked if there were any questions concerning the Consent Agenda, which items were detailed with staff reports in the Board packet. On motion of Jeremy Blackwell, seconded by Rod Stiefvater, and unanimously carried, the Board approved each item listed on the Consent Agenda on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Rob Goff  
Rod Stiefvater  
Rob Yraceburu  
Jeremy Blackwell



Bernard Pugét

NOES: None

ABSENT: Leon Elwell

WDWA GSA OPERATIONS UPDATE )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**WDWA GSA Bank Account Update**

Justin Rowe reported that the set up of WDWA GSA's bank account is almost complete and that staff will continue to provide status updates in the future. No Board action was taken.

**State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Kern County Subbasin (KCS) Probationary Process Update**

Morgan Campbell reported that while the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) tentatively announced the Kern County Subbasin's (KCS) probationary hearing will occur in April 2024, there are assumed schedule delays due to the SWRCB not yet releasing Tulare Lake Subbasin's probationary hearing notice. KCS GSAs continue to coordinate their efforts to address the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) inadequate determination letter. To date, efforts have been focused on developing a unified sustainable management criteria (SMC) methodology for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels. No Board action was taken.

**WDWA GSA, Kern Fan Banking Projects, and Kern Groundwater Authority (KGA) Comment Letters**

Morgan Campbell reported that the KCS's Technical Working Group released a memorandum on August 1, 2023 recommending three different SMC methodologies to the KCS Coordination Committee. WDWA GSA provided written comments to the Coordination Committee on August 4, 2023 stating that WDWA GSA supported the use of the "South of Kern River Algorithm B" methodology. WDWA GSA also coordinated with the Kern Water Bank, Pioneer Project, Berrenda Mesa Spreading Grounds, and West Kern Water District (Kern Fan Banking Projects) to submit a joint comment letter to the KCS Coordination Committee on August 4, 2023 supporting the use of the "South of Kern River Algorithm B" as the SMC methodology for chronic lowering of groundwater levels. KGA also submitted a comment letter on behalf of all KGA Joint Powers Authority participants. No Board action was taken.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NON AGENDIZED ITEMS )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

No public participation occurred.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION )



\_\_\_\_\_ )

The Chairman directed that the Board move into closed session to discuss anticipated litigation. Legal counsel advised the Board that it has authority to hold a closed session under Government Code sections 54956.9(d)(2), and 54956.9(d)(4). All persons other than the Directors, Mark Gilkey, Justin Rowe, Morgan Campbell, Jamie Marquez, Kim Constant, Alex Dominguez, Morgan Mitchell, Mushtaq Mohideen, Brad Kroeker, Tom Watson, and Abbigale Seal retired from the meeting.

Following the closed session, the meeting was again open to the public. Chairman Rob Goff reported that during closed session, on motion of Jeremy Blackwell, seconded by Bernard Pugét, and unanimously carried, the Board took action to approve WDWA GSA withdrawing from the KGA JPA on the following roll call vote:


AYES: Rob Goff  
Rod Stiefvater  
Rob Yraceburu  
Jeremy Blackwell  
Bernard Pugét

NOES: None

ABSENT: Leon Elwell

ADJOURNMENT )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rod Stiefvater  
Secretary of the Board of Directors

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Goff  
Chairman

