

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

Held November 5, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Westside District Water Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WDWA GSA or Agency) was held on November 5, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. in person at the Belridge Water Storage District office located at 21908 7<sup>th</sup> Standard Road, McKittrick, CA 93251.

1. CALL TO ORDER )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Chairman Goff called the meeting to order at 10:53 a.m.

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

The following directors were present, constituting a quorum of the Board: Rob Goff, Rod Stiefvater, Jeremy Blackwell, and Bernard Pugét.

Also present were: Mark Gilkey, Justin Rowe, Morgan Campbell, Jamie Marquez, Trevor Maggart, Mushtaq Mohideen, and Alex Dominguez (Legal Counsel).

The following were present via teleconference: Tom Watson, Abbigale Seal, Mary King, Sameena Gill, Carrie Heredia, and Brianda Rodriguez.

In addition, the following members of the public were present: Brad Kroeker, Travis Millwee, and Justin Murray.

The following members of the public were present via teleconference: Andrew Mason, Alejandra Lopez, Kyle Murai, Andrew McHaney, Leon Elwell, and Megan Harper.

2. CHANGES TO AGENDA )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

There were no requests to revise the agenda.

3. 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 Bernard Pugét, seconded by Jeremy Blackwell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved each item listed on the Consent Agenda on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Rob Goff  
Rod Stiefvater  
Bernard Pugét  
Jeremy Blackwell

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rob Yraceburu  
Leon Elwell

#### 4. FINANCIAL REPORT )

\_\_\_\_\_ )

#### **a. Review and approve 2024 Quarter Three Treasurer's Report:**

- i. **Approve Statement of Net Position:** Mushtaq Mohideen presented the Fiscal Year 2024 Quarter 3 Statement of Net Position. After discussion, on motion of Jeremy Blackwell, seconded by Rod Stiefvater, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Fiscal Year 2024 Quarter 3 Statement of Net Position:

AYES: Rob Goff  
Rod Stiefvater  
Bernard Pugét  
Jeremy Blackwell

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rob Yraceburu  
Leon Elwell

- ii. **Approve Profit and Loss Statement:** Mushtaq Mohideen presented the Fiscal Year 2024 Quarter 3 Profit and Loss Statement. After discussion, on motion of Rod Stiefvater, seconded by Jeremy Blackwell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Fiscal Year 2024 Quarter 3 Profit and Loss Statement:

AYES: Rob Goff  
Rod Stiefvater  
Bernard Pugét  
Jeremy Blackwell

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rob Yraceburu  
Leon Elwell

- iii. **Ratify Warrants:** Mushtaq Mohideen presented the Fiscal Year 2024 Quarter 3 Warrant List. After discussion, on motion of Jeremy Blackwell, seconded by Bernard Pugét, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Fiscal Year 2024 Quarter 3 Warrant List:

AYES: Rob Goff  
Rod Stiefvater  
Bernard Pugét  
Jeremy Blackwell

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rob Yraceburu  
Leon Elwell

**b. 2024 budget update:** Morgan Campbell presented an informational update on the 2024 budget and cash flow. Due to several amendments to support the subbasin-wide Technical Working Group, WDWA GSA projects an estimated \$60,000 cash shortfall prior to the end of Calendar Year 2024. No Board action was taken.

**c. Approve revised Kern County Subbasin technical work cost share proposals:**

- i. **Approve Rincon Task Order Request to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Contract Agreement for Kern County Subbasin Plan Manager Support proposal:** Morgan Campbell presented on WDWA GSA's cost share responsibility for supporting the Rincon Task Order Request for facilitating support for the Coordination Committee, Technical Working Group, and Manager Meetings regarding GSP work across the Kern Subbasin. WDWA GSA's requested contribution is \$8,443.
- ii. **Approve Technical Working Group Response to SWRCB proposal:** Morgan Campbell presented on WDWA GSA's cost share responsibility for supporting the Kern Subbasin Technical Working Group's response to the SWRCB Staff Response and the Technical Working Group's work on the 2024 GSP Finalization. WDWA GSA's requested contribution is \$29,182.
- iii. **Approve Intera Kern Subbasin Well Mitigation Program Development and Preparation proposal:** Morgan Campbell presented WDWA GSA's cost share responsibility for supporting the development of the Kern County

Subbasin's domestic well mitigation program. WDWA GSA's requested contribution is \$3,900.

After discussion, on motion of Bernard Pugét, seconded by Jeremy Blackwell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the three cost share proposals presented and approved a combined contribution of \$41,525:

AYES: Rob Goff  
Rod Stiefvater  
Bernard Pugét  
Jeremy Blackwell

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rob Yraceburu  
Leon Elwell

**d. Approve development of a domestic well mitigation cash reserve:** Morgan Campbell informed the Board that the Kern County Subbasin intends to implement a subbasin-wide domestic well mitigation program and has requested each GSA develop a cash reserve to be used for implementing the domestic well mitigation plan, if needed. WDWA GSA's requested cash reserve amount is \$90,000. After discussion, on motion of Jeremy Blackwell, seconded by Rod Stiefvater, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the development of a \$90,000 domestic well mitigation cash reserve:

AYES: Rob Goff  
Rod Stiefvater  
Bernard Pugét  
Jeremy Blackwell

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rob Yraceburu  
Leon Elwell

**e. Authorize WDWA GSA to issue a cash call to Beldrige Water Storage District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, and Lost Hills Water District:** Morgan Campbell presented a staff recommendation to issue a collective cash call of \$50,000 per Member District to cover the projected cash shortfall presented in Item 4b, above, and the develop the domestic well mitigation cash reserve presented in Item 4d, above. After discussion, on motion of Rod Stiefvater, seconded by Jeremy Blackwell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved

collecting a total of \$150,000 by issuing a \$50,000 cash call to Berrenda Mesa Water District, Belridge Water Storage District, and Lost Hills Water District:

AYES: Rob Goff  
Rod Stiefvater  
Bernard Pugét  
Jeremy Blackwell

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rob Yraceburu  
Leon Elwell

**f. Review and approve 2025 Budget:** Morgan Campbell presented the WDWA GSA budget for 2025. After discussion, on motion of Bernard Pugét, seconded by Rod Stiefvater, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the 2025 budget:

AYES: Rob Goff  
Rod Stiefvater  
Bernard Pugét  
Jeremy Blackwell

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rob Yraceburu  
Leon Elwell

5. WDWA GSA OPERATIONS )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

- a. **State intervention process update:** Morgan Campbell provided an informational update on the outcomes from the Tule Subbasin probationary hearing and that a final version of the WDWA GSA GSP is planned for adoption at the upcoming December 9, 2024, Board meeting. No Board action was taken.
  
- b. **Approve Domestic Well Mitigation Agreement with Self-Help Enterprises:** Morgan Campbell presented the Domestic Well Mitigation Agreement with Self-Help Enterprises. Alex Dominguez informed the board that the Kern Subbasin Legal Working Group has reviewed the agreement. On motion of Jeremy Blackwell, seconded by Bernard Pugét, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Domestic Well Mitigation Agreement:

AYES: Rob Goff  
Rod Stiefvater  
Bernard Pugét

Jeremy Blackwell

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rob Yraceburu  
Leon Elwell

**Consider adoption of a Moratorium on Groundwater Extractions with Proximity to Critical Infrastructure Impacted by Subsidence:**

Before introducing the proposed “Moratorium on Groundwater Extractions with Proximity to Critical Infrastructure Impacted by Subsidence,” Morgan Campbell explained the issue regarding subsidence along the Mileposts 195 to 215 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). Particularly, Morgan Campbell reported that the Aqueduct has experienced 3.5 to 4.0 feet of cumulative subsidence since 1967, resulting in conveyance capacity restrictions. Tom Watson provided supplemental information regarding past subsidence rates along the California Aqueduct and a combination of factors contributing to subsidence rates. Morgan Campbell then went on to explain the SGMA requirement that GSAs prevent undesirable results related to groundwater extraction, including subsidence caused by groundwater extraction. Thereafter, Morgan Campbell explained that, despite several technical studies indicating that groundwater extraction is not a significant contributor to subsidence along the Aqueduct, the California Aqueduct Subsidence Project (CASP) has not accepted those studies as definitive proof that groundwater extraction is not contributing to such subsidence.

Morgan Campbell then explained that demonstrating groundwater extraction is not causing subsidence along the Aqueduct is critical to avoid probationary status under SGMA. Morgan Campbell then introduced staff’s recommendation to adopt a groundwater extraction moratorium within close proximity to critical infrastructure impacted by subsidence, such as the Aqueduct. The proposed moratorium provides exceptions for groundwater extractions for human health and safety, *de minimis* domestic use, and groundwater quality monitoring. Trevor Maggart presented information on the results of WDWA GSA’s well registration program on the number of identified wells within close proximity to the Aqueduct.

The Board provided an opportunity for members of the public to comment. Kyle Murai, representing Gladstone Land Corporation, urged the board to consider the economic implications of stopping groundwater pumping, citing concerns that purchasing supplemental water would not be a cost-effective option for landowners in lieu of groundwater pumping during dry years. Travis Millwee expressed concern that the proposed moratorium would not be equitably enforced across landowners. Brad Kroeker echoed the concerns of the other members of the public.

After discussion, Chairman Goff recommended revising the time interval between reviews of the proposed moratorium from 12 months to 6 months. Further, language limiting the appeals process to a “critical dry year” was removed and replaced with an appeal process that could be initiated by any landowner at any time during the duration of the proposed moratorium. After discussion, on motion of Jeremy Blackwell, seconded by Rod Stiefvater, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Moratorium on Groundwater Extraction within Proximity to Critical Infrastructure Impacted by Subsidence:

AYES: Rob Goff  
Rod Stiefvater  
Bernard Pugét  
Jeremy Blackwell

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rob Yraceburu  
Leon Elwell

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

No public participation occurred.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

The Chairman directed that the Board move into closed session at 1:03 p.m. 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, Trevor Maggart, Mushtaq Mohideen, Abbigale Seal, Mary King, Brianda Rodriguez, Carrie Heredia, and Sameena Gill retired from the meeting. No reportable action was taken.

7. ADJOURNMENT )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Rod Stiefvater

Rod Stiefvater  
Secretary of the Board of Directors

APPROVED:

Rob Goff  
Rob Goff  
Chairman