

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO SERVE AS A
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY;
KINGS RIVER EAST

Chris M. Kapheim
Alta Irrigation District

March 28, 2016



ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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March 28, 2016

Mr. Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
901 P Street, Room 213-B
Sacramento, CA 94236

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF ELECTION TO SERVE AS A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY; KINGS RIVER EAST

Dear Mr. Nordberg:

Pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.8, the group consisting of County of Tulare, County of Fresno, City of Dinuba, City of Reedley, City of Orange Cove, Alta Irrigation District, Orange Cove Irrigation District, Hills Valley Irrigation District, Tri-Valley Water District, Kings River Water District, Orosi Public Utility District, Cutler Public Utility District, London Community Services District, East Orosi Community Services District and Sultana Community Services District (referred to collectively as "Kings River East") provides Notice of Election to serve as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA") for portions of the Kings Sub-basin of the San Joaquin Valley Basin ("Basin") described in Exhibit "A-1" and shown in Exhibit "A-2" attached hereto. The Kings River East has worked to be collaborative with all interested parties within the sub-basin, i.e., agriculture, cities, counties, water and irrigation districts, and drinking water districts that are considered to be severely disadvantaged communities.

All of those local agencies, acting as interested parties, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") to form the Kings River East GSA (see signature copies of the MOU attached hereto as Exhibit "B"). In the MOU, such interested parties commit to forming either (i) a special act district or (ii) a joint powers authority to implement the GSA. At this time, Senate Bill 37 (Vidak) is awaiting hearing in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee to establish that special act district (see SB 37 (Vidak), attached hereto as Exhibit "C").

On March 17, 2016, the Kings River East held a public hearing to consider serving as the GSA. The signed MOUs state the intent of the parties to form the GSA (see Exhibit "B"). The Kings River East noticed the public hearing in a paper in Fresno County (Reedley Exponent) and a paper in Tulare County (Dinuba Sentinel), as required by Water Code Section 10723(b) and Government Code Section 6066 (see Reedley Exponent and Dinuba Sentinel Public Notices attached hereto as Exhibit "D").

The District did not receive any written comments prior to the hearing. Furthermore, at that public hearing, the Kings River East did not receive any comments or conditions objecting to or criticizing the formation of the Kings River East GSA. Section 6 of the MOU, regarding the GSA Governing Body, specifies and describes the governance structure for the Kings River East GSA (see Exhibit "B").

Pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.8(a)(4), the Kings River East will consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing GSPs. The outreach conducted by and the transparency of the efforts of the interested parties is demonstrated in the Kings River East meeting agendas and minutes from August 2014 to the current date, (see Kings River East meeting agendas and minutes, hereinafter referred to and attached hereto as Exhibit "E"). The Kings River East meeting agendas and minutes are also posted on Alta Irrigation District's website under the heading "GSA." The Kings River East also noticed the Native American Heritage Commission, in

writing, to initiate consultation and discussion of impacts to tribal cultural heritage. As confirmed in the Kings River East meeting and agendas (see Exhibit "E"), the following interested parties were considered and consulted per Water Code Section 10723.2:

1. Cities: The incorporated cities (Dinuba, Reedley and Orange Cove) within the Kings River East GSA were actively involved in the formative planning process, (see Exhibit "E"). The cities collectively have one vote in the governance of the Kings River East GSA, (see Exhibit "B").
2. Counties: The counties (Fresno and Tulare) within the Kings River East GSA were actively involved in the formative planning process. Each county has one vote in the governance of the Kings River East GSA, (see Exhibit "B").
3. Alta Irrigation District: Alta Irrigation District encompasses much of the Kings River East GSA and was actively involved in the formative planning process, (see Exhibit "E"). Alta Irrigation District has one vote in the governance of the East Kings GSA, (see Exhibit "B").
4. Drinking Water Agencies (severely disadvantaged communities): The unincorporated public local agencies serving drinking water within the Kings River East GSA, namely Orosi PUD, Cutler PUD, London CSD, East Orosi CSD and Sultana CSD were actively involved in the formative planning process, (see Exhibit "E"). The drinking water agencies collectively have one vote in the governance of the Kings River East GSA, (see Exhibit "B").
5. Water and Irrigation Districts: The water and irrigation districts (Orange Cove and Hill Valley Irrigation Districts, Tri-Valley and Kings River Water Districts) within the Kings River East GSA were actively involved in the formative planning process, (See Exhibit "E"). The water and irrigation districts collectively have one vote in the governance of the Kings River East GSA, (see Exhibit "B").
6. Agriculture: Agricultural groups (Tulare and Fresno County Farm Bureaus, as well as Citrus Mutual) and individual farmers within the Kings River East GSA were actively involved in the formative planning process, (see Exhibit "E"). The appointed representative of production agriculture has one vote in the governance of the Kings River East GSA, (see Exhibit "B").
7. Kings River Conservation District ("KRCD"): KRCD within the Kings River East GSA was involved in the formative planning process, (see Exhibit "E").
8. Department of Water Resources ("DWR"): DWR within the Kings River East GSA was involved in the formative planning process, (see Exhibit "E").
9. Community Water Center ("CWC"): The CWC, advocating for environmental justice interests within the Kings River East GSA, was involved in the formative planning process, (see Exhibit "E").
10. Federal Government: There are federal government facilities, such as the Friant-Kern Canal of the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project, located within the Kings River East GSA. As a result, the Bureau of Reclamation will be consulted on activities of the Kings River East GSA. There are no military facilities in the vicinity of the Kings River East GSA.

If DWR has any questions, or requires any additional information regarding this notification of the Kings River East to serve as the GSA for the identified portions of the Kings Sub-basin, please contact me at (559) 358-8228 or email at cmk@altaid.org.

Sincerely,

Kings River East GSA



Chris M. Kapheim, GM
Alta Irrigation District

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT
IN THE KINGS GROUNDWATER BASIN
BY SUPPORTING FORMATION
OF A
KINGS RIVER EAST GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (the “MOU”) is made and effective as of the earlier of (i) the date on which all of the member agencies listed below have executed this MOU, or (ii) March 1, 2016 (on which date this MOU will be binding upon and inure to the benefit of only those member agencies signatory hereto), by and between the County of Tulare, the County of Fresno, the City of Orange Cove, the City of Reedley, the City of Dinuba, Orange Cove Irrigation District, Alta Irrigation District, Hills Valley Irrigation District, Tri-Valley Water District, Cutler Public Utility District, East Orosi Community Services District, London Community Services District, Orosi Public Utility District and Sultana Community Services District. Representatives of entities and organizations that are not public agencies will form an advisory committee to consult with the signatories of this MOU with respect to implementing the goals expressed herein (each entity that has executed this MOU on or before the Effective Date being hereinafter referred to individually as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties”), with reference to the following facts:

A. The State of California has enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (contained in SB 1168, AB 1739 and SB 1319), referred to in this MOU as the “Act,” pursuant to which certain local agencies and parties to a memorandum of understanding or other legal agreements may become “groundwater sustainability agencies” and adopt “groundwater sustainability plans” in order to manage and regulate groundwater in underlying groundwater basins. (The Act defines “basin” as a basin or subbasin identified and defined in California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118.) Some of the Parties are local agencies qualified to become a groundwater sustainability agency and adopt a groundwater sustainability plan under the Act, but prefer to establish a separate authority, which will become a groundwater sustainability agency operating in accordance with the Act.

B. Multiple local agencies overlying a single groundwater basin or subbasin may adopt individual groundwater sustainability plans if those plans are coordinated, or may join together to adopt a single plan. The Parties all overlie portions of the Kings Subbasin as it is currently defined by the California Department of Water Resources (the “Basin”) and wish to participate in the implementation of the Act specifically within the Basin or specific portions thereof. As a result, coordination and cooperation between them is necessary in order to determine their respective roles and the manner in which they will implement the Act. In addition, other agencies that are qualified to become groundwater sustainability agencies overlie the Basin and have expressed interest in implementation of the Act in the Basin, and the Parties acknowledge the importance of involving those other agencies in the management of groundwater resources in the Basin under the Act. The Parties desire to enter into an agreement that will facilitate the creation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency; namely the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”), which would adopt a Groundwater

Sustainability Plan ("GSP") that would consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the boundaries of the GSA.

C. The Parties wish to establish an agreement and framework for cooperative efforts relative to formation of a GSA in order to implement the Act in the Basin, both with each other and with agencies both current and future, in the Basin interested in implementing the Act, to help ensure that the Act is implemented in the Basin effectively, efficiently, fairly, and at the lowest reasonable cost.

THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises set forth below and to implement the goals described above, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Purposes of MOU. The primary purposes of this MOU are to (i) facilitate a cooperative and ongoing working relationship among the Parties and other stakeholders and water users in an effort to establish a GSA in order to develop and implement mutually beneficial approaches and strategies for implementing the Act in the Basin; and (ii) facilitate contacts with other agencies, both current and prospective, overlying the Basin so that they can coordinate with the GSA to implement the GSP and to satisfy the requirements of the Act.

2. Intent to Advocate the Formation of the GSA; Implementation of the GSP. The Parties intend that this MOU is to express the intent of the Parties on or before January 1, 2017 to establish either a joint powers authority or a special act district to act as the GSA (hereinafter referred to specifically as the "GSA") to prepare for approval the GSP for the area located east of the Kings River and under the jurisdiction of one or more of the Parties in order to implement the GSP applicable to that area. The Parties shall regularly confer with regard to those efforts

3. Outreach to Other Agencies. In recognition of the importance of involving all interested agencies in the Basin that are or will be involved in efforts to establish the GSA and the GSP under the Act in the management of the Basin in coordination with other agencies in the Basin, as an initial activity under this MOU, the Parties shall develop and implement an outreach plan pursuant to which the Parties will contact other agencies within or near their respective boundaries that may become groundwater sustainability agencies and adopt groundwater sustainability plans under the Act, to invite their participation in activities undertaken in connection herewith.

4. Initial Administrative Costs. Each Party shall bear all costs it incurs with respect to its activities under this MOU, including without limitation, costs relative to the formation of the GSA and activities in which that Party wishes to participate. The Parties estimate that initial administrative costs incurred in connection with this MOU for the joint benefit of all Parties, including, legal and other professional services concerning, among other things, issues with respect to funding and formation ("Initial Administrative Costs"), will be approximately Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) as estimated in Table I, attached hereto (see "Table I, MOU Initial Administrative Cost"). The Initial Administrative Costs shall be borne in the following proportions:

Alta	20%
County of Tulare	20%
County of Fresno	20%
Cities (as defined below) collectively	20%
Irrigation Districts (as defined below) collectively	20%

Alta shall act as the fiscal agent ("Fiscal Agent") for the Parties to receive funds and have the authority to determine and pay the Initial Administrative Costs. Upon execution hereof, Alta, the County of Tulare, the County of Fresno, the Cities collectively and the Irrigation Districts collectively shall pay to the Fiscal Agent as a deposit to be held for the account of those Parties the cash sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) each. Any additional costs and expenses may be authorized only by all the Parties. If so authorized, upon request of the Fiscal Agent along with an accounting of those additional costs for which the Fiscal Agent seeks payment, the Parties listed above shall promptly contribute their respective shares of those additional costs in the proportions specified above.

5. Definitions. Unless otherwise indicated by their context, the definitions set forth in this article govern the interpretation of this MOU.

- 5.1 "Actively and primarily engaged in production of agriculture" means that a person derives at least 75 percent of his or her annual income from production agriculture.
- 5.2 "Alta" means the Alta Irrigation District.
- 5.3 "Aquifer" means a geologic formation or structure that transmits water in sufficient quantities to supply pumping wells or springs.
- 5.4 "Basin" has the same meaning as defined in Section 10721 of the Water Code.
- 5.5 "Board" means the board of directors of the GSA, as more particularly described in Section 6 below.
- 5.6 "Cities" means the Cities of Dinuba, Orange Cove, and Reedley.
- 5.7 "Coordination agreement" has the same meaning as defined in Section 10721 of the Water Code.
- 5.8 "County" means either the County of Fresno or the County of Tulare, as the context requires. "Counties" means the County of Fresno and the County of Tulare.

- 5.9 “Extraction” means the act of obtaining groundwater by pumping or other controlled means.
- 5.10 “Groundwater” has the same meaning as defined in Section 10721 of the Water Code.
- 5.11 “Groundwater management activities” means programs, measures, or actions taken to preserve, protect, and enhance groundwater resources within the territory of the GSA.
- 5.12 “Kings Subbasin” means the San Joaquin Valley Basin Kings Subbasin as described in Section 9 below.
- 5.13 “Member agency” means Alta, the Counties, the Cities, and the special districts entitled to representation on the GSA’s board of directors as specified in Section 6 below.
- 5.14 “Operator” has the same meaning as defined in Section 10721 of the Water Code.
- 5.15 “Person” includes any state or local governmental agency, private corporation, firm, partnership, limited liability company, individual, group of individuals, or, to the extent authorized by law, any federal agency.
- 5.16 “Plan” means a groundwater sustainability plan prepared by the GSA pursuant to this MOU.
- 5.17 “Supplemental water” means surface water or groundwater lawfully imported from outside the watershed or watersheds of the basin or aquifer and flood waters that are conserved and saved within the watershed or watersheds that would otherwise have been lost or would not have reached the basin or aquifer.

6. The Proposed GSA Governing Body.

- (a) The Parties intend to support and advocate for establishment of the GSA to be governed by a board of directors that shall consist of seven (7) members, as follows:
 - (i) One member shall be chosen by Alta.
 - (ii) One member shall be chosen by the County of Fresno.
 - (iii) One member shall be chosen by the County of Tulare.
 - (iv) One member shall be chosen by the Cities. This member shall be chosen from the members of the city councils of the Cities whose territory, at least in part, overlies the territory of the GSA. This member shall be chosen at a public meeting where each city is represented by its mayor.
 - (v) One member shall be chosen from the members of the governing boards of the following special districts that are not governed by the board of supervisors of either county, are engaged in water activities, and whose territory, at least in part, overlies the territory of the GSA:
 - (A) Hills Valley Irrigation District.
 - (B) Orange Cove Irrigation District.

- (C) Tri-Valley Water District.
- (D) Kings River Water District

(vi) One member shall be chosen from the members of the governing boards of the following special districts that provide drinking water within the territory of the GSA:

- (A) Cutler Public Utility District.
- (B) East Orosi Community Services District.
- (C) London Community Services District.
- (D) Orosi Public Utility District.
- (E) Sultana Community Services District

(vii) One member shall be chosen by at least four of the other six board members to represent agricultural interests within the territory of the GSA. This member shall reside and be actively and primarily engaged in production of agriculture within the territory of the GSA. This member shall be selected from a list of nominations submitted from the Fresno County Farm Bureau, the Tulare County Farm Bureau, and California Citrus Mutual, but the nominees need not be members of any of those organizations.

(b) The board members described in paragraphs (i), (ii), and (iii) of subdivision (a) above shall be chosen by their respective governing boards from their board members whose districts or divisions overlie, at least in part, the territory of the GSA.

(c) The board members described in paragraphs (v) and (vi) of subdivision (a) above shall be chosen at a public meeting where each special district is represented by the president or chair of its governing board.

(d) There shall be an alternate for each board member, chosen in the same manner and by the same entity as the board member. The alternate member shall act in place of the board member for whom he or she is an alternate in case of that board member's absence or inability to act.

(e) The members described in paragraphs (i) to (vi), inclusive, of subdivision (a) of this Section 6 shall serve for a four-year term of office, or until the member is no longer an eligible official of the member agency. These members may serve for more than one term of office.

(f) The member described in paragraph (vii) of subdivision (a) above shall serve a four-year term of office.

7. Acts and Actions of the Proposed GSA Board. The Parties intend to support and advocate for the GSA whose board would have, among others set forth in the Act, the authorities and obligations, and follow the procedures, set forth below:

(a) The board would adopt actions for the purpose of regulating, conserving, managing, and controlling the use and extraction of groundwater within the territory of the GSA.

(b) An action adopted by the board would become effective 30 days from the date of its passage.

(c) All actions would be adopted at noticed public hearings by a majority vote of the board. No ordinance would be adopted by the board except at a public hearing. Notice of the hearing would be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the manner provided in and pursuant to Section 6066 of the Government Code.

(d) The board would provide notice of the adoption of all actions.

(e) The GSA would have the authority to contract with either County or Alta for staff and other services. The GSA may hire contractors and consultants as it considers appropriate.

(f) The GSA would have the authority to enter into a coordination agreement with other local agencies for purposes of coordinating the GSA's plan with other agencies or groundwater sustainability plans within the basin.

8. Studies and Investigations by the Proposed GSA. The Parties intend to support and advocate for the GSA that would have the authorities and obligations set forth below:

(a) The GSA would collect data and conduct technical and other investigations of all kinds in order to carry out the provisions of the Act. All hydrological investigations and studies carried out by or on behalf of the GSA would be constructed by or under the supervision of licensed engineers or other persons qualified in groundwater geology or hydrology.

(b) The GSA would recommend and encourage water recycling and other water development projects, where those projects will enhance and contribute to the responsible management of groundwater resources, as part of its annual plan for implementation of groundwater management objectives.

9. Proposed GSA Boundaries. The Parties intend to support and advocate for the GSA that would have the boundaries described below by means of actions set forth below:

(a) The boundaries of the GSA would include all land located within the exterior perimeter boundaries of Alta Irrigation District within the Counties of Fresno and Tulare, the Orange Cove Irrigation District, the Hills Valley Irrigation District, Kings River Water District, and the Tri-Valley Water District overlying the San Joaquin Valley Basin Kings Subbasin as described in the report by the Department of Water Resources entitled "California's Groundwater: Bulletin 118" updated in 2003, as it may be subsequently updated or revised in accordance with Section 12924 of the Water Code.

(b) The GSA's initial boundaries shall be established by the boards of supervisors of the Counties of Fresno and Tulare after a noticed public hearing. The boundaries shall be depicted on a map that shall be adopted by the boards of supervisors of those counties and thereafter recorded in the office of the county recorder of each county.

(c) The boards of supervisors of the Counties of Fresno and Tulare may adjust the boundaries of the GSA in the same manner prescribed for establishment of the initial boundaries if the boundaries of the basin are revised, including the establishment of new subbasins.

10. Proposed GSA Sustainable Groundwater Management Powers. The Parties intend to support and advocate for the GSA whose board would have the intentions, authorities and obligations set forth below:

(a) The GSA shall elect to be a groundwater sustainability agency pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 10723) of Part 2.74 of Division 6 of the Water Code for that portion of the Kings Subbasin that lies within the boundaries of the GSA.

(b) The GSA shall develop and implement a groundwater sustainability plan pursuant to Chapter 6 (commencing with 38 Section 10727) of Part 2.74 of Division 6 of the Water Code to achieve sustainable groundwater management within the territory of the GSA.

(c) The GSA may exercise any of the powers described in Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 10725) of Part 2.74 of Division 6 of the Water Code and the enforcement powers described in Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 10732) of Part 2.74 of Division 6 of the Water Code.

(d) The availability of supplemental water to any operator shall not subject that operator to regulations that are more restrictive than those imposed on other operators.

11. Proposed GSA Fee Authority. The Parties intend to support and advocate for the GSA whose board would have the authorities and obligations set forth below:

Pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 10730) of Part 2.74 of Division 6 of the Water Code, the GSA may impose fees, including, but not limited to, permit fees and fees on groundwater extraction or other regulated activity, to fund the costs of a groundwater sustainability program, that include, but are not limited to, the preparation, adoption, and amendment of a groundwater sustainability plan, investigations, inspections, compliance assistance, enforcement, and program administration, including a prudent reserve.

12. Other Alternatives. Nothing in this MOU shall preclude any Party from pursuing implementation of the Act on its own or with third parties consistent with this MOU. Further, while the Parties intend to diligently implement activities in which all of them participate, nothing in this MOU shall preclude any of the Parties from pursuing such activities with fewer than all or with none of the other Parties. In the event any Party chooses to pursue such activities, that Party shall promptly notify all other Parties of those activities.

13. Ongoing Cooperation. The Parties acknowledge that activities under this MOU will require the frequent interaction between them in order to exploit opportunities and resolve issues that arise. The Parties shall work cooperatively and in good faith. The goal of the Parties

shall be to preserve flexibility with respect to the establishment of the GSA and implementation of the GSP in order to maximize the benefits of that GSP to all beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the GSA. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this MOU shall be interpreted to require the Parties jointly to establish the GSA. If the GSA is formed, it shall implement a GSP that complies with the requirement set forth in the Act (Water Code Section 10727.6) that it be coordinated with other GSP's in the Basin. The Parties intend to consult with all stakeholders and beneficial users of groundwater within the GSA.

14. Staff; Notices.

(a) Each Party shall designate a principal contact person for that Party, who may be changed from time to time, and such other appropriate staff members and consultants to participate on such Party's behalf in activities undertaken pursuant to this MOU. The principal contact person for each Party shall be responsible for coordinating meetings and other activities under this MOU with the principal contact person for the other Parties. Meetings shall occur as the principal contacts determine are necessary, and each Party shall make its expertise and resources reasonably available for activities under this MOU.

(b) Any formal notice or other formal communication given under the terms of this MOU shall be in writing and shall be given personally, by facsimile or by certified mail, postage prepaid and return receipt requested. Any notice shall be delivered or addressed to the parties at the addresses or facsimile numbers set forth below or at such other address or facsimile numbers as shall be designated by notice in writing in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. The date of receipt of the notice shall be the date of actual personal service or confirmed facsimile transmission, or three days after the postmark on certified mail.

If notice is given to the Alta Irrigation District, it shall be given at the following address and facsimile number:

Alta Irrigation District
Post Office Box 715
Dinuba, CA 93618
Attn: General Manager
Facsimile No.: 559-591-5190

If notice is given to the County of Fresno, it shall be given at the following address and facsimile number:

County of Fresno
2220 Tulare Street, 6th floor
Fresno California 93721
Attn: Director of Public Works and Planning
Facsimile No.: 559-600-4537

If notice is given to the County of Tulare, it shall be given at the following address and facsimile number:

County of Tulare
2800 W. Burrel
Visalia, CA 93291
Attn: County Administrative Officer
Facsimile No.: 559-733-6318

If notice is given to the City of Orange Cove, it shall be given at the following address and facsimile number:

City of Orange Cove
633 Sixth Street
Orange Cove, California 93646
Attn: City Manager
Facsimile No.: 559-626-4653

If notice is given to the City of Reedley, it shall be given at the following address and facsimile number:

City of Reedley
1717 9th Street
Reedley, CA 93654
Attn: City Manager
Facsimile No.: 559-638-1093

If notice is to be given to the City of Dinuba, it shall be given at the following address and facsimile number:

City of Dinuba
405 E. El Monte Way
Dinuba, CA 93618
Attn: City Manager
Facsimile No.: 559-591-5902

If notice is to be given to the Hills Valley Irrigation District, it shall be given at the following address and facsimile number:

Hills Valley Irrigation District
P.O. Box 911
Visalia, CA 93279
Attn: Dennis Keller
Facsimile No.: 559-732-7937

If notice is to be given to the Tri-Valley Water District, it shall be given at the following address and facsimile number:

Tri-Valley Water District
P.O. Box 911
Visalia, CA 93279
Attn: Dennis Keller
Facsimile No.: 559-732-7937

If notice is to be given to the Orange Cove Irrigation District, it shall be given at the following address and facsimile number:

Orange Cove Irrigation District
1130 Park Blvd
Orange Cove, CA 93646
Attn: Fergus Morrissey
Facsimile No.: 559-626-4463

If notice is to be given to the Kings River Water District, it shall be given at the following address and phone number:

Kings River Water District
P.O. Box 457
Sanger, CA 93657
Attn: Jack Paxton or Nick Keller
Phone No.: 559-732-7938

If notice is to be given to the Cutler Public Utility District, it shall be given at the following address and phone number:

Cutler Public Utility District
40526 Orosi Drive
Cutler, CA 93615
Attn: Martha Lowrey
Phone: (559) 528-3859

If notice is to be given to the East Orosi Community Services District, it shall be given at the following address and phone number:

East Orosi Community Services District
41842 Ione Rd
Orosi, CA 93647
Attn: Katie Icho
Phone No.: 559-(559) 528-2726

If notice is to be given to the London Community Services District, it shall be given at the following address and facsimile number:

London Community Services District
37835 Kate Rd.
Dinuba CA 93618
Attn: Jim Wegley
Facsimile No.: 559-591-0976

If notice is to be given to the Orosi Public Utility District, it shall be given at the following address and phone number:

Orosi Public Utility District
12488 Ave 416
Orosi, CA 93647
Attn: Maria Elena Vidana
Phone No.: 559-528-4262

If notice is to be given to the Sultana Community Services District, it shall be given at the following address and phone number:

Sultana Community Services District
P.O. Box 158
Sultana, CA 93666
Attn: Michael Prado Sr.
Phone No.: 559- 859-7330

(c) Alta shall make all reasonable efforts to post on its website the minutes of all meetings among the Parties, as well as summaries of all non-privileged memorandums and reports received by the Parties with respect to their activities concerning formation of the GSA, its powers and authorities and its sources of funding.

15. Entire Agreement. This MOU incorporates the entire and exclusive agreement of the Parties with respect to the matters described herein and supersedes all prior negotiations and agreements (written, oral or otherwise) related thereto. This MOU may be amended (including without limitation to add new Parties) only in a writing executed by all of the Parties.

16. Termination.

(a) This MOU shall remain in effect unless terminated by the mutual written consent of the Parties, or upon 30 days written notice of termination delivered by one Party to the others that is not withdrawn prior to the specified termination date; provided, that upon termination by one Party, the remaining Parties may by mutual written agreement continue this MOU in effect as between the non-terminating Parties. No Party shall be liable to any other if it elects to terminate this MOU.

(b) Anything to the contrary herein notwithstanding, this MOU shall terminate automatically upon the occurrence of the earlier of either:

(i) Enactment and the effective date of a statute that forms a special act district to be the GSA or the formation of a joint powers authority or

(ii) July 1, 2017, if by that date the GSA is not designated under the Act to be the groundwater sustainability agency for the area described in Paragraph 9 above.

17. Severability. Should any provision of this MOU be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be void, in excess of a Party's authority, or otherwise unenforceable, the validity of the remaining provisions of this MOU shall not be affected thereby.

18. Assignment. No rights and duties of any of the Parties under this MOU may be assigned or delegated without the express prior written consent of all of the other Parties, and any attempt to assign or delegate such rights or duties without such consent shall be null and void.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this MOU as of the date first above written.

ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

COUNTY OF TULARE

By: Chris M. Kapheim

By: Mike Ennis

Name: Chris M. Kapheim

Name: ~~Steve Worthley~~ Mike Ennis

Title: General Manager

Title: Chairman, Tulare County Board of Supervisors

County of Fresno:

CITY OF ORANGE COVE

By: Ernest Buddy Mendes
Ernest Buddy Mendes, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

By: Samuel A. Escobar
Name: Samuel A. Escobar

Title: City Manager

CITY OF REEDLEY

CITY OF DINUBA

By: Nicole Zieba

By: Luis Patlan

Name: Nicole Zieba

Name: Luis Patlan

Title: City Manager

Title: City Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
COUNTY COUNSEL
BY: [Signature]
DEPUTY
Notar No. 2015428

ORANGE COVE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

By: Harvey A. Bailey

Name: Harvey A. Bailey

Title: President

TRI-VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

By: John Colbert

Name: John Colbert

Title: President

EAST OROSI COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

By: Carmen Moreno

Name: Carmen Moreno

Title: President

OROSI PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

By: Alex Marroquin

Name: Alex Marroquin

Title: President

KINGS RIVER WATER DISTRICT

By: Jack Paxton

Name: Jack Paxton.

Title: Chairman to the Board

HILLS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

By: Loren Booth

Name: Loren Booth

Title: President

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By: Armando Porras

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LONDON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

By: Dorothy M. Keltner

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Title: President

SULTANA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

By: Michael Prado Sr.

Name: Michael Prado Sr.

Title: President

Approved as to Legal Form:

Daniel Cederborg
Fresno County Counsel

By: Peter Wall deputy

Approved as to Accounting Form:
Vicki Crow, C.P.A.
Auditor Controller/Treasure Tax-Collector

By: Alan Elmer

Attest:

Bernice E. Seidel
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

By: Kevin Coughlin Deputy

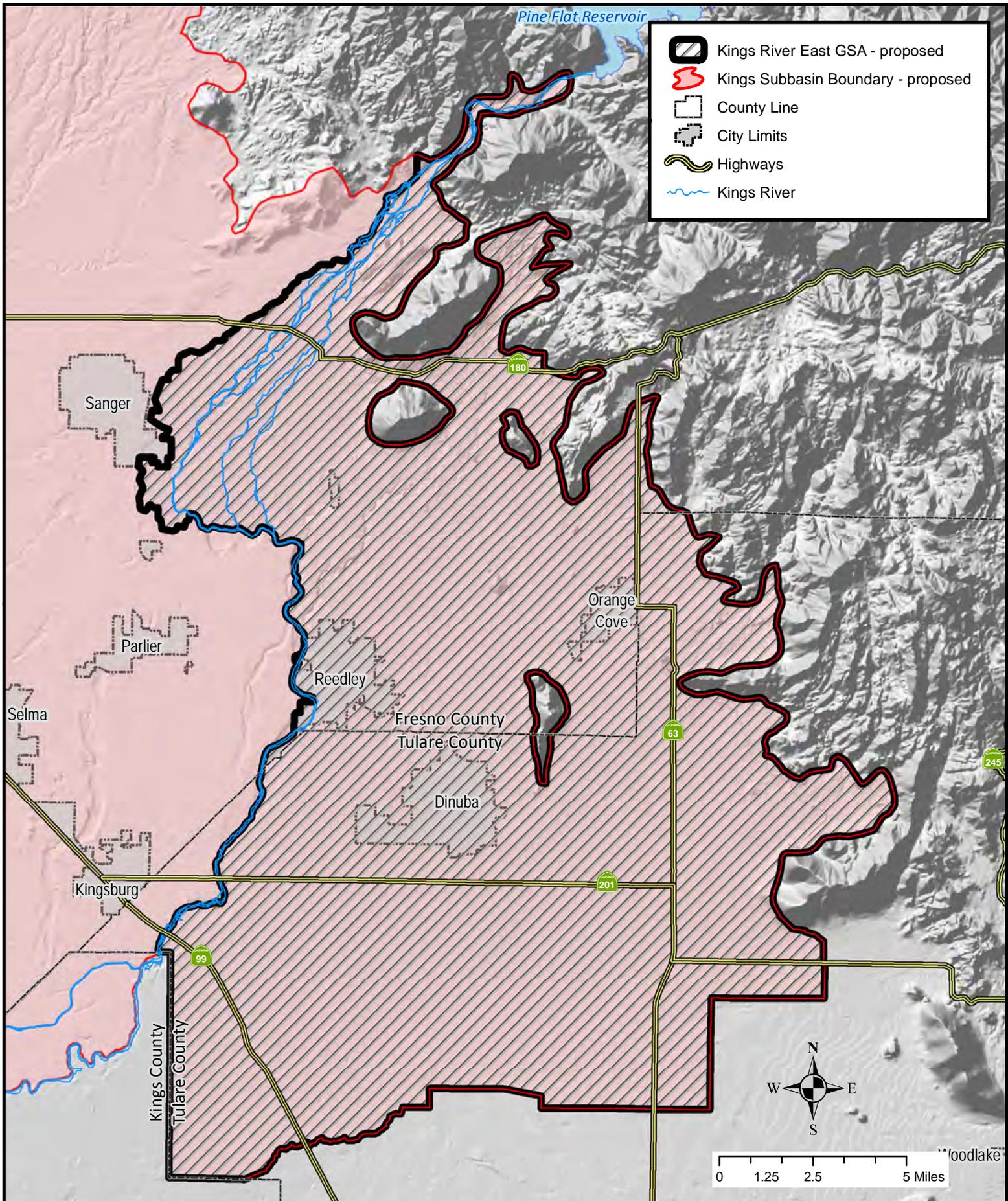
Table I

**Kings River East Planning Group MOU
Initial Administrative Costs**

Task	Hours/Units	Blended Rate/Cost	Total
Funding Implementation, Legal Opinion Prop. 26	33	\$260.00	\$8,580.00
Monitoring and GSP Budgetary Cost Estimate	12	\$300.00	\$3,600.00
GSA Decision Documents	4	\$260.00	\$1,040.00
Communication and Outreach	10.83	\$72.00	\$779.76
Miscellaneous/Materials	1	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total Initial Administrative Cost			\$14,999.76

Kings River East Boundary Description

For the purposes of this application, the initial boundaries of the agency shall include all the lands in Alta Irrigation District in Fresno and Tulare Counties, the incorporated City of Reedley, the lands in Kings River Water District plus Fresno County parcel 350-150-16 (as of January 2016) and excepting the incorporated City of Sanger, and the lands east of Alta Irrigation District and east of the east line of Sections 13 and 24, T13S, R23E, between said Alta Irrigation District and east line and the east line of the Bulletin 118 Kings Subbasin boundary, as described in the report by the Department of Water Resources titled "California's Groundwater: Bulletin 118" updated in 2003, as it may be subsequently updated or revised in accordance with Section 12924 of the Water Code a (see attached map of Kings River East GSA Boundary).



Kings River East GSA
Proposed Boundary Map

(i) Enactment and the effective date of a statute that forms a special act district to be the GSA or the formation of a joint powers authority or

(ii) July 1, 2017, if by that date the GSA is not designated under the Act to be the groundwater sustainability agency for the area described in Paragraph 9 above.

17. Severability. Should any provision of this MOU be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be void, in excess of a Party's authority, or otherwise unenforceable, the validity of the remaining provisions of this MOU shall not be affected thereby.

18. Assignment. No rights and duties of any of the Parties under this MOU may be assigned or delegated without the express prior written consent of all of the other Parties, and any attempt to assign or delegate such rights or duties without such consent shall be null and void.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this MOU as of the date first above written.

ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

COUNTY OF TULARE

By: Chris M. Kapheim

By: _____

Name: Chris M. Kapheim

Name: Steve Worthley

Title: General Manager

Title: Chairman, Tulare County Board of Supervisors

COUNTY OF FRESNO

CITY OF ORANGE COVE

By: _____

By: _____

Name: Debbie Poochigian

Name: Samuel A. Escobar

Title: Chairman, Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Title: City Manager

CITY OF REEDLEY

CITY OF DINUBA

By: _____

By: _____

Name: Nicole Zieba

Name: Luis Patlan

Title: City Manager

Title: City Manager

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COUNTY OF TULARE

By: _____

By: Mike Ennis

Name: Chris M. Kapheim

Name: ~~Steve Worthley~~ Mike Ennis

Title: General Manager

Title: Chairman, Tulare County Board of Supervisors

COUNTY OF FRESNO

CITY OF ORANGE COVE

By: _____

By: _____

Name: Debbie Poochigian

Name: Samuel A. Escobar

Title: Chairman, Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Title: City Manager

CITY OF REEDLEY

CITY OF DINUBA

By: _____

By: _____

Name: Nicole Zieba

Name: Luis Patlan

Title: City Manager

Title: City Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
COUNTY COUNSEL
BY [Signature]
DEPUTY
Date: No. 2015-438

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County of Fresno:

By: Ernest Buddy Mendes
Ernest Buddy Mendes, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

Approved as to Legal Form:

Daniel Cederborg
Fresno County Counsel

By: Peter Wall deputy

Approved as to Accounting Form:
Vicki Crow, C.P.A.
Auditor Controller/Treasure Tax-Collector

By: Alan Elough

Attest:

Bernice E. Seidel
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

By: Karen Cough Deputy

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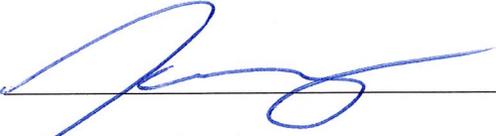
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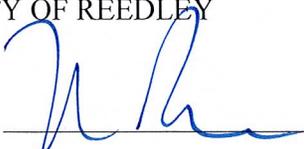
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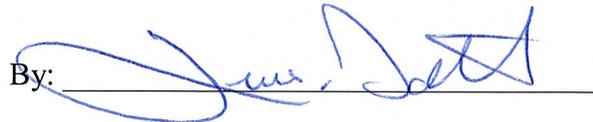
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Name: Nicole Zieba

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Title: Chairman to the Board

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 7, 2016
AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 12, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 37

Introduced by Senator ~~Nielsen~~ *Vidak*
(Principal coauthor: Senator Fuller)

(Principal ~~coauthor~~: *coauthors: Assembly Member Gallagher* Members
Mathis and Salas)

December 1, 2014

~~An act relating to water, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately. to create the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and prescribing its boundaries, organization, operation, management, financing, and other powers and duties, relating to water districts.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 37, as amended, ~~Nielsen Vidak. Water: floods. Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act.~~

Existing law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources that are designated as basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2020, and requires all other groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2022, except as specified.

This bill would create the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would require the agency's initial boundaries

to be established by the boards of supervisors of the Counties of Fresno and Tulare after a noticed public hearing. The bill would require the agency to elect to be a groundwater sustainability agency under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act for that portion of the Kings Subbasin that lies within the boundaries of the agency and would require the agency to develop and implement a groundwater sustainability plan to achieve sustainable groundwater management within the territory of the agency. The bill would generally specify the powers and purposes of the agency. The bill would prescribe the composition of the 7-member board of directors of the agency and would require members and alternates to be chosen by prescribed member agencies, as specified. By imposing duties on the agency and the member agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

~~(1) Existing law authorizes the Department of Water Resources to administer funding, from various sources, for flood risk reduction projects.~~

~~This bill would authorize the Department of Water Resources to provide reimbursement to funding recipients that execute a funding agreement under the Urban Flood Risk Reduction Projects program for expenditures associated with continued funding of a project initiated under the Early Implementation Project program and incurred after July 1, 2014, and before issuance of a funding commitment, or amendment or execution of the funding agreement, but no later than December 31, 2015.~~

~~(2) This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.~~

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$ -majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: ~~no~~-yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 *SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the*
2 *Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act.*

3
4 *Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act*

5
6
7 *Article 1. Findings and Declarations*

8
9 101. *The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the*
10 *preservation of the groundwater resources within the territory of*
11 *the agency for agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses is in*
12 *the public interest and that the creation of the agency pursuant to*
13 *this act is for the common benefit of water users.*

14 102. *The Legislature further finds and declares that the*
15 *groundwater management activities of the agency benefit all*
16 *operators of groundwater extraction facilities within the territory*
17 *of the agency.*

18 103. *The Legislature further finds and declares that*
19 *circumstances in the territory of the agency to be formed hereby,*
20 *which may not exist in other locations, justify the formation of the*
21 *agency and the grant of powers contained in this act.*

22
23 *Article 2. Creation and Purposes*

24
25 201. (a) *A groundwater management agency is hereby created*
26 *in the Counties of Fresno and Tulare to be known as the Kings*
27 *River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency.*

28 (b) *The agency shall be governed by a board as specified in*
29 *Section 501 and shall have the boundaries specified in Section*
30 *301. The agency shall exercise the powers granted by this act and*
31 *the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Part 2.74*
32 *(commencing with Section 10720) of Division 6 of the Water Code)*
33 *for purposes of groundwater management within the boundaries*
34 *of the agency, together with any other powers as are reasonably*
35 *implied, necessary, and proper to carry out the objectives and*
36 *purposes of the agency to implement the Sustainable Groundwater*
37 *Management Act.*

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Article 3. Boundaries

301. For purposes of this act, the initial boundaries of the agency shall include the following:

(a) All land located within the exterior perimeter boundaries of Alta Irrigation District that is within the Counties of Fresno and Tulare.

(b) All land located in the incorporated City of Reedley.

(c) All land located in Kings River Water District plus parcel 350-150-16 within the County of Fresno, as that parcel existed as of January 1, 2016, and excluding the incorporated City of Sanger.

(d) Land that is east of Alta Irrigation District and east of the east line of Sections 13 and 24, T13S, R23E, between Alta Irrigation District and east line and the east line of the Bulletin 118 Kings Subbasin boundary, as described in the report by the Department of Water Resources titled, “California’s Groundwater: Bulletin 118,” updated in 2003, as it may be subsequently updated or revised in accordance with Section 12924 of the Water Code.

302. The agency’s initial boundaries shall be established by the boards of supervisors of the Counties of Fresno and Tulare after a noticed public hearing. The boundaries shall be depicted on a map that shall be adopted by the boards of supervisors of those counties and thereafter recorded in the office of the county recorder of each county.

303. The boards of supervisors of the Counties of Fresno and Tulare may adjust the boundaries of the agency in the same manner prescribed for establishment of the initial boundaries if the boundaries of the basin are revised, including the establishment of new subbasins.

Article 4. Definitions

401. Unless otherwise indicated by their context, the definitions set forth in this article govern the interpretation of this act.

401.1. “Actively and primarily engaged in production of agriculture” means that a person derives at least 75 percent of his or her annual income from production agriculture.

402. “Agency” means the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency established by this act.

- 1 403. *“Alta” means the Alta Irrigation District.*
2 404. *“Aquifer” means a geologic formation or structure that*
3 *transmits water in sufficient quantities to supply pumping wells*
4 *or springs.*
5 405. *“Basin” has the same meaning as defined in Section*
6 *10721 of the Water Code.*
7 406. *“Board” means the board of directors of the agency, as*
8 *more particularly described in Section 501.*
9 407. *“Cities” means the Cities of Dinuba, Orange Cove, and*
10 *Reedley.*
11 408. *“Coordination agreement” has the same meaning as*
12 *defined in Section 10721 of the Water Code.*
13 409. *“County” means either the County of Fresno or the*
14 *County of Tulare, as the context requires. “Counties” means the*
15 *County of Fresno and the County of Tulare.*
16 410. *“Extraction” means the act of obtaining groundwater by*
17 *pumping or other controlled means.*
18 411. *“Groundwater” has the same meaning as defined in*
19 *Section 10721 of the Water Code.*
20 412. *“Groundwater management activities” means programs,*
21 *measures, or actions taken to preserve, protect, and enhance*
22 *groundwater resources within the territory of the agency.*
23 413. *“Kings Subbasin” means the San Joaquin Valley Basin*
24 *Kings Subbasin.*
25 414. *“Member agency” means Alta, the counties, the cities,*
26 *and the special districts entitled to representation on the agency’s*
27 *board of directors as specified in Section 501.*
28 415. *“Operator” has the same meaning as defined in Section*
29 *10721 of the Water Code.*
30 416. *“Person” includes any state or local governmental*
31 *agency, private corporation, firm, partnership, limited liability*
32 *company, individual, group of individuals, or, to the extent*
33 *authorized by law, any federal agency.*
34 417. *“Plan” means a groundwater sustainability plan prepared*
35 *by the agency pursuant to this act.*
36 418. *“Supplemental water” means surface water or*
37 *groundwater imported from outside the watershed or watersheds*
38 *of the basin or aquifer and floodwaters that are conserved and*
39 *saved within the watershed or watersheds that would otherwise*
40 *have been lost or would not have reached the basin or aquifer.*

1
2 *Article 5. General Provisions*
3

4 501. (a) *The agency shall be governed by a board of directors*
5 *that shall consist of seven members, as follows:*

6 (1) *One member shall be chosen by Alta.*

7 (2) *One member shall be chosen by the County of Fresno.*

8 (3) *One member shall be chosen by the County of Tulare.*

9 (4) *One member shall be chosen by the cities. This member shall*
10 *be chosen from the members of the city councils of the cities whose*
11 *territory, at least in part, overlies the territory of the agency. This*
12 *member shall be chosen at a public meeting where each city is*
13 *represented by its mayor.*

14 (5) *One member shall be chosen from the members of the*
15 *governing boards of the following special districts that are not*
16 *governed by the board of supervisors of either county, are engaged*
17 *in water activities, and whose territory, at least in part, overlies*
18 *the territory of the agency:*

19 (A) *Hills Valley Irrigation District.*

20 (B) *Orange Cove Irrigation District.*

21 (C) *Tri-Valley Water District.*

22 (D) *Kings River Water District.*

23 (6) *One member shall be chosen from the members of the*
24 *governing boards of special districts that provide drinking water*
25 *within the territory of the agency.*

26 (7) *One member shall be chosen by the other six board members*
27 *to represent agricultural interests within the territory of the agency.*
28 *This member shall reside and be actively and primarily engaged*
29 *in production of agriculture within the territory of the agency.*
30 *This member shall be selected from a list of at least five*
31 *nominations submitted from the Fresno County Farm Bureau and*
32 *the Tulare County Farm Bureau, acting jointly, but the five*
33 *nominees need not be members of either organization.*

34 (b) *The board members described in paragraphs (1), (2), and*
35 *(3) of subdivision (a) shall be chosen by their respective governing*
36 *boards from their board members whose districts or divisions*
37 *overlie, at least in part, the territory of the agency.*

38 (c) *The board members described in paragraphs (5) and (6) of*
39 *subdivision (a) shall be chosen at a public meeting where each*

1 *special district is represented by the president or chair of its*
2 *governing board.*

3 *(d) There shall be an alternate for each board member, chosen*
4 *in the same manner and by the same entity as the board member.*
5 *The alternate member shall act in place of the board member he*
6 *or she is an alternate for in case of that board member's absence*
7 *or inability to act.*

8 502. *(a) The members described in paragraphs (1) to (6),*
9 *inclusive, of subdivision (a) of Section 501 shall serve for a*
10 *four-year term of office, or until the member is no longer an*
11 *eligible official of the member agency. These members may serve*
12 *for more than one term of office.*

13 *(b) The member described in paragraph (7) of subdivision (a)*
14 *of Section 501 shall serve a four-year term of office.*

15 503. *(a) The board may adopt an ordinance to provide*
16 *compensation to members of the board in an amount not to exceed*
17 *one hundred dollars (\$100) per day for each day's attendance at*
18 *meetings of the board or for each day's service rendered as a*
19 *member of the board by request of the board. For purposes of this*
20 *section, the determination of whether a board member's activities*
21 *on any specific day are compensable shall be made pursuant to*
22 *Article 2.3 (commencing with Section 53232) of Chapter 2 of Part*
23 *1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code.*

24 *(b) Reimbursement for expenses of members of the board is*
25 *subject to Sections 53232.2 and 53232.3 of the Government Code.*

26 *(c) The board may adopt an ordinance to increase the*
27 *compensation received by members of the board above the amount*
28 *of one hundred dollars (\$100) per day. The increase shall not*
29 *exceed an amount equal to 5 percent, for each calendar year*
30 *following the operative date of the last adjustment, of the*
31 *compensation that is received when the ordinance is adopted.*

32 *(d) A board member shall not be compensated for more than a*
33 *total of 10 days in any calendar month.*

34 504. *(a) The board may adopt ordinances for the purpose of*
35 *regulating, conserving, managing, and controlling the use and*
36 *extraction of groundwater within the territory of the agency.*

37 *(b) An ordinance adopted by the board shall become effective*
38 *30 days from the date of its passage.*

39 *(c) All ordinances shall be adopted at noticed, public hearings*
40 *by a majority vote of the board. No ordinance shall be adopted by*

1 *the board except at a public hearing. Notice of the hearing shall*
2 *be published in a newspaper of general circulation pursuant to*
3 *Section 6066 of the Government Code.*

4 *(d) The board shall provide notice of the adoption of all*
5 *ordinances.*

6 *505. No provision of this act shall be construed as denying to*
7 *the counties, any city, Alta, or any other member agency any rights*
8 *or powers that they already have or that they may be granted.*

9 *506. The agency may contract with either county or Alta for*
10 *staff and other services. The agency may hire contractors and*
11 *consultants as it considers appropriate.*

12 *507. The agency may enter into a coordination agreement with*
13 *other local agencies for purposes of coordinating the agency's*
14 *plan with other agencies or groundwater sustainability plans within*
15 *the Kings Subbasin as required by the Sustainable Groundwater*
16 *Management Act (Part 2.74 (commencing with Section 10720) of*
17 *Division 6 of the Water Code).*

18 *508. The agency may exclude from any of the requirements of*
19 *this act, or the operation of any ordinance, any operator who*
20 *annually extracts less than a minimum amount of groundwater as*
21 *specified by an ordinance adopted by the board.*

22

23 *Article 6. Studies and Investigations*

24

25 *601. The agency may collect data and conduct technical and*
26 *other investigations of all kinds in order to carry out the provisions*
27 *of this act. All hydrological investigations and studies carried out*
28 *by or on behalf of the agency shall be constructed by or under the*
29 *supervision of licensed engineers or other persons qualified in*
30 *groundwater geology or hydrology.*

31 *602. The agency may recommend and encourage water*
32 *recycling and other water development projects, where those*
33 *projects will enhance and contribute to the responsible*
34 *management of groundwater resources, as part of its annual plan*
35 *for implementation of groundwater management objectives.*

36

37 *Article 7. Sustainable Groundwater Management Powers*

38

39 *701. The agency shall develop and implement a groundwater*
40 *sustainability plan pursuant to Chapter 6 (commencing with*

1 *Section 10727) of Part 2.74 of Division 6 of the Water Code to*
2 *achieve sustainable groundwater management within the territory*
3 *of the agency.*

4 *702. The agency shall elect to be a groundwater sustainability*
5 *agency pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 10723)*
6 *of Part 2.74 of Division 6 of the Water Code for that portion of*
7 *the Kings Subbasin that lies within the boundaries of the agency.*

8 *703. The agency may exercise any of the powers described in*
9 *Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 10725) of Part 2.74 of*
10 *Division 6 of the Water Code and the enforcement powers*
11 *described in Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 10732) of Part*
12 *2.74 of Division 6 of the Water Code.*

13 *704. The availability of supplemental water to any operator*
14 *shall not subject that operator to regulations that are more*
15 *restrictive than those imposed on other operators.*

16

17

Article 8. Fee Authority

18

19 *801. Pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 10730)*
20 *of Part 2.74 of Division 6 of the Water Code, the agency may*
21 *impose fees, including, but not limited to, permit fees and fees on*
22 *groundwater extraction or other regulated activity, to fund the*
23 *costs of a groundwater sustainability program, that include, but*
24 *are not limited to, the preparation, adoption, and amendment of*
25 *a groundwater sustainability plan, investigations, inspections,*
26 *compliance assistance, enforcement, and program administration,*
27 *including a prudent reserve.*

28 *SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that*
29 *this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to*
30 *local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made*
31 *pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division*
32 *4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

33 ~~*SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other law, the Department*~~
34 ~~*of Water Resources may provide reimbursement to funding*~~
35 ~~*recipients that execute a funding agreement under the Urban Flood*~~
36 ~~*Risk Reduction Projects program for any expenditure associated*~~
37 ~~*with continued funding of a project initiated under the Early*~~
38 ~~*Implementation Project program and incurred after July 1, 2014,*~~
39 ~~*and before issuance of a funding commitment letter, or amendment*~~

1 or execution of the funding agreement, but no later than December
2 31, 2015.

3 ~~SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the~~
4 ~~immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within~~
5 ~~the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into~~
6 ~~immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:~~

7 ~~In order to provide for early reimbursement for funding recipients~~
8 ~~to expedite urban flood risk reduction projects, it is necessary that~~
9 ~~the bill take effect immediately.~~

Declaration of Publication
State of California)
County of Tulare) ss.

Declarant says:
That at all times herein mention
Declarantis and was a resident of said County,
of **TULARE**, over the age of twenty-one years;
not a party to nor interested in the within matter;
that Declarant is now and was at all times herein
mentioned the **CHIEF CLERK TO THE**
PUBLISHER of the Dinuba Sentinel, a weekly
newspaper, which said newspaper was reaffirmed
as a newspaper of general circulation on August
18, 1951 by Superior Court order No. 19523;
and that said newspaper is printed and published
every Thursday in the City of Dinuba,
in said County of Tulare; and that the
Notice of Public Hearing GSA

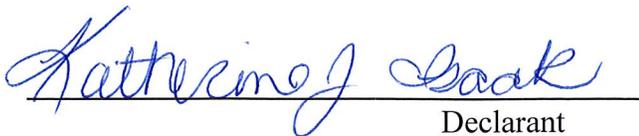
of which the copy annexed on the margin hereof
is a true and printed copy was published in said
newspaper in the issue of:

February 25, March 3, 2016

and that such publication was made in the regular
issue of said paper (and not in any supplemental edition
or extra thereof).

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing
is true and correct.

Executed on March 3, 2016 at Dinuba,
California


Declarant

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing proposing to form the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) will be held **Thursday, March 17, 2016, at 2:00 p.m., at the Dinuba City Council Chambers at 505 East El Monte Way, Dinuba, California 93618.** The purpose of this public hearing is to accept public testimony regarding the proposal to form the Kings River East GSA under Water Code §10723 for the portion of the Kings Sub-basin principally located east of the Kings River and inclusive of fifteen agencies: Alta, Orange Cove and Hills Valley Irrigation Districts; Cities of Dinuba, Reedley and Orange Cove; Counties of Fresno and Tulare; Tri-Valley and Kings River Water Districts; Cutler and Orosi Public Utility Districts; London, Sultana and East Orosi Community Service Districts. Chris Kapheim, Alta Irrigation District

February 25, March 3, 2016



1130 "G" Street
Reedley, California 93654
Telephone: (559) 638-2244

(Space below for use of County Clerk only)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF FRESNO

Notice of Public Hearing GSA

CASE NO. _____

DECLARATION OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.G.P.)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Fresno

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of the REEDLEY EXPONENT, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Reedley, County of Fresno, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the superior court of the County of Fresno, State of California, under the date of July 1, 1952, Case Number 867614; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

February 25, March 3, 2016

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

on March 3, 2016

Katherine J. Cook

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing proposing to form the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) will be held **Thursday, March 17, 2016, at 2:00 p.m., at the Dinuba City Council Chambers at 505 East El Monte Way, Dinuba, California 93618**. The purpose of this public hearing is to accept public testimony regarding the proposal to form the Kings River East GSA under Water Code §10723 for the portion of the Kings Sub-basin principally located east of the Kings River and inclusive of fifteen agencies: Alta, Orange Cove and Hills Valley Irrigation Districts; Cities of Dinuba, Reedley and Orange Cove; Counties of Fresno and Tulare; Tri-Valley and Kings River Water Districts; Cutler and Orosi Public Utility Districts; London, Sultana and East Orosi Community Service Districts; Chris Kapheim, Alta Irrigation District

February 25, March 3, 2016

KINGS RIVER EAST GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

STAKEHOLDER MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

City of Dinuba Council Chambers, 405 East El Monte Way, Dinuba, CA

This is an in-person meeting.

AGENDA

Item	Description	Lead/ Time for Item
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Review Agenda • Meeting Purpose/Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Public Hearing Discussion;</i> ○ <i>Initiating Notice of Intent</i> ○ <i>Kings Basin Coordination costs</i> ○ <i>GSP Regulations Comment Period</i> 	Chris Kapheim (2:00–2:05)
Public Hearing on Intent to Form the Kings River East GSA		
2. February Minutes/Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action item 	Chris Kapheim (Following Public Hearing)
<i>Handouts:</i> 1) <i>Minutes of February 18, 2016</i> 2) <i>Sentinel Article Kings River East GSA</i>		
3. Draft MOU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of signed MOUs and receipt of funding • Discussion of Pubic Hearing Issues 	Chris Kapheim (Following Public Hearing)
<i>Handouts:</i> 1) <i>Signatures and Funding/MOU</i> 2) <i>GSA Accounting</i>		
4. Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 37 (Vidak)/Support Letters 	Chris Kapheim (Following Public Hearing)
<i>Handouts:</i> 1) <i>SB 37 (Vidak)</i>		
5. Coordination, Implementation and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 11, 2016 Kings Basin Coordination Mtg. • Cost of Kings Basin Coordination • Review of GSP draft regulations and comment Period • Action to Submit Notice of Intent to Form Kings River East GSA 	Chris Kapheim/Eric Osterling (Following Public Hearing)
<i>Handouts:</i> 1) <i>DWR Draft Regulations</i> 2) <i>DWR Draft Regulations Guide</i> 3) <i>Kings Basin SGMA Coordination Agenda/Cost</i>		
Review and action of costs to coordinate Kings Basin		
Review and action of submitting Notice of Intent to DWR		

KINGS RIVER EAST GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

6. Group Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Considerations Going Forward• General Discussion	Chris Kapheim/All (Following Public Hearing)
7. Meeting Wrap Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moving forward with the Notice of Intent to Form Kings River East GSA and submit to DWR:• Next Steps:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Determine and implement long-term strategy<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Formation of Technical Committee▪ Formation of Advisory and Outreach Committee	Chris Kapheim (Following Public Hearing)

KINGS RIVER EAST GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

STAKEHOLDER MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

City of Dinuba Council chambers, 405 East El Monte Way, Dinuba, CA

This is an in-person meeting.

AGENDA

Item	Description	Lead/ Time for Item
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Review Agenda • Meeting Purpose/Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Review feedback from draft MOU; and</i> ○ <i>Use this meeting to focus on GSA planning options</i> ○ <i>Evaluate long-term options</i> 	Chris Kapheim (2:00–2:05)
Review and action on minutes of January 21, 2016		
2. December Minutes/Communications	Action item	Chris Kapheim (2:05 – 2:10)
<i>Handouts:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Minutes of January 21, 2016</i> 2) <i>Sentinel Article Kings River East GSA</i> 3) <i>Paso Robles Groundwater Authority Article</i> 		
3. Draft MOU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of MOU • Summary of signed MOUs and receipt of funding • Discussion • March notice for GSA implementation • Summary of signatures and summary of accounting 	Chris Kapheim (2:10 – 2:15)
<i>Handouts:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Draft MOU/Signatures</i> 2) <i>GSA Accounting</i> 		
4. Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested Amendments to Legislative Counsel 	Chris Kapheim (2:15-2:30)
<i>Handouts:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Legislative Counsel language/amendments</i> 		
5. Coordination, Implementation and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination Meetings • Review of GSP draft regulations • Boundary description and map • Technical Committee suggestions 	Chris Kapheim/Eric Osterling (2:30 – 3:00)

KINGS RIVER EAST GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory and Outreach Committee suggestions 	
<p><i>Handouts:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>DWR Steps to Form a GSA</i> 2) <i>Boundary Description and map</i> 3) <i>GSP guidelines</i> 		
6. Group Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerations Going Forward • General Discussion 	Chris Kapheim/ All (3:00 – 3:15)
7. Meeting Wrap Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving forward with the MOU: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 1 deadline for involvement ○ Implement preparation for funding and planning • Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Determine and implement long-term strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Input from farm bureaus and commodity groups ▪ Input from local agencies/interested parties ▪ March 2016 GSA notice, resolution and public hearing 	Chris Kapheim (3:15 – 3:30)

KINGS RIVER EAST GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT

STAKEHOLDER MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

City of Dinuba Council chambers, 405 East El Monte Way, Dinuba, CA

This is an in-person meeting.

AGENDA

Item	Description	Lead/ Time for Item
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Review Agenda • Meeting Purpose/Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Review feedback from draft MOU; and</i> ○ <i>Use this meeting to focus on GSA planning options</i> ○ <i>Evaluate long-term options</i> 	Chris Kapheim (2:00–2:05)
Review and action on minutes of December 10, 2015		
2. December Minutes	Action item	Chris Kapheim (2:05 – 2:10)
<i>Handouts:</i> 1) <i>Minutes of December 10, 2015</i>		
3. Draft MOU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of MOU • Focus on signing of MOU and receipt of funding • Discussion • March notice for GSA implementation 	Chris Kapheim (2:10 – 2:15)
<i>Handouts:</i> 1) <i>Final MOU</i>		
4. Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested Amendments to Legislative Counsel 	Chris Kapheim (2:15-2:25)
<i>Handouts:</i> 1) <i>Language submitted to Legislative counsel</i>		
5. Coordination, Implementation and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination Meetings • Review of GSP draft regulations 	Chris Kapheim/Eric Osterling (2:25 – 3:00)
<i>Handouts:</i> 1) <i>Draft DWR GW Sustainability Implementation</i>		

KINGS RIVER EAST GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT

6. Group Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerations Going Forward • General Discussion 	Chris Kapheim/ All (3:00 – 3:25)
<p><i>Handouts:</i></p> <p>1) <i>DWR - GSA Frequently Asked Questions</i></p> <p>2) <i>DWR - GSA Formation Notification Guidelines for Local Agencies</i></p>		
7. Meeting Wrap Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving forward with the MOU: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 1 deadline for involvement ○ Implement preparation for funding and planning • Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Determine and implement long-term strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Input from farm bureaus and commodity groups ▪ Input from local agencies/interested parties ▪ March 2016 GSA notice, resolution and public hearing 	Chris Kapheim (3:25 – 3:30)

KINGS RIVER EAST GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT

STAKEHOLDER MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2015
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

City of Dinuba Council Chambers, 405 East El Monte Way, Dinuba, CA 93618

This is an in-person meeting.

AGENDA

Item	Description	Lead/ Time for Item
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Review Agenda • Meeting Purpose/Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review feedback from draft MOU; and ○ Use this meeting as a forum to evaluate short-term focus on amendments to AB 1135 ○ Evaluate long-term options 	Chris Kapheim (2:00–2:05)
Review and action on minutes of October 15, 2015		
2. October Minutes	Action item	Chris Kapheim (2:05 – 2:10)
<i>Handouts:</i> 1) <i>Minutes of October 15, 2015</i>		
3. Draft MOU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of MOU • Inclusion of KRWD • Key Areas of Focus for Today • Discussion 	Chris Kapheim (2:10 – 2:15)
<i>Handouts:</i> 2) <i>Draft MOU</i>		
4. Legislation (AB 1135)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KRCD Letter, Amendments • Alta ID Letter of Response, Amendments • Assemb. Perea Meeting on December 14, 2015 	Chris Kapheim (2:15-3:05)
<i>Handouts:</i> 1) <i>KRCD Letter, Amendments</i> 2) <i>Alta ID Letter, Amendments</i>		
5. Coordination and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresno County and Tulare County Coordination • KRWD Boundary • Adjacent basin coordination 	Chris Kapheim/Eric Osterling (3:05 – 3:25)
<i>Handouts: Maps depicting boundary changes</i>		

KINGS RIVER EAST GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT

Discussion and Next Steps		
6. Group Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerations Going Forward • General Discussion 	Chris Kapheim/ All (3:25 – 3:30)
7. Meeting Wrap Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving forward with the MOU: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 1 deadline for involvement ○ Implement preparation for funding and planning • Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Determine and implement long-term strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Input from farm bureaus and commodity groups ▪ Input from local agencies/interested parties ▪ Assemb. Perea meeting on December 14 ▪ Next meeting January 21, 2016 	Chris Kapheim (3:30 – 3:35)

KINGS RIVER EAST GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT

STAKEHOLDER MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

City of Dinuba Council Chambers, 405 East El Monte Way, Dinuba, CA

This is an in-person meeting.

AGENDA

Item	Description	Lead/ Time for Item
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Review Agenda • Meeting Purpose/Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Review feedback from draft MOU; and</i> ○ <i>Use this meeting as a forum to evaluate long-term options, i.e., JPA or special act legislation.</i> 	Chris Kapheim (2:00–2:10)
Review and action on minutes of September 17, 2015		
2. September Minutes	Action item	Chris Kapheim (2:10 – 2:15)
<i>Handouts:</i> 1) <i>Minutes of September 17, 2015</i>		
3. Draft MOU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of MOU and Past Stakeholder Meetings • Key Areas of Focus for Today • Discussion 	Chris Kapheim (2:15 – 2:30)
<i>Handouts:</i> 2) <i>Draft MOU</i>		
4. Long-term Goal (next 12 to 18 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of long-term strategies • Joint powers agreement versus special act district • Discussion 	Chris Kapheim/ Doug Jensen (2:30-3:00)
<i>Handouts:</i> 3) <i>Legal Memo JPA versus special act district</i> 4) <i>California Water Foundation Know Your Options</i>		
5. Coordination and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresno County and Tulare County Coordination • Kings Basin • Adjacent basin coordination 	Chris Kapheim/Eric Osterling (3:00 – 3:10)
<i>Handouts:</i>		
Discussion and Next Steps		

KINGS RIVER EAST GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT

6. Group Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerations Going Forward • General Discussion 	Chris Kapheim/ All (3:10 – 3:20)
7. Meeting Wrap Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving forward with the MOU: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 1 deadline for involvement ○ Implement preparation for funding and planning • Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Determine and implement long-term strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Input from farm bureaus and commodity groups ▪ Input from local agencies/interested parties ▪ Perea meeting in December ▪ Evaluate decision of using a JPA or special act district in December 2015 or January 2016 	Chris Kapheim (3:20 – 3:30)

Cc:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D. • Norman Waldner, Alta I.D. • Jack Brandt, Alta I.D. • John Kalender, Alta I.D. • Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor • Denise English, Tulare County • Ernest Buddy Mendes, Fresno County Supervisor • Allan Weaver, Fresno County • Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley • Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley • Luis Patlan, City of Dinuba • Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba • Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove • Dennis Keller, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts • Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer and Alta I.D. • Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D. • Tricia Stever Blattler, Tulare County Farm Bureau • Mayo Ryan, Fresno County Farm Bureau • John Kirk, DWR • Dane Mathis, DWR • John Sanders, Orange Cove I.D. • Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove I.D. • JR Shannon, Shannon Ranches • Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center • Michael Prado, Sultana CSD/AGUA • Martha Lowrey, Cutler PUD • Maria Elena, Vidana, Orosi PUD • Lucy Rodriguez, East Orosi CSD • Dennis Mills, Kings CWD • Joel Nelsen, California Citrus Mutual • Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League • Michael Rivera, Assemblyman Perea • Eric Osterling, KRCD |
|--|---|

Kings River East GSA Meeting

DATE: September 17, 2015

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: City of Dinuba, City Hall Council Chambers, 405 E El Monte Way, Dinuba, CA 93618

TO:

- Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
- Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
- Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.
- John Kalender, Alta I.D.
- Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
- Denise English, Tulare County
- Ernest Buddy Mendes, Fresno County Supervisor
- Allan Weaver, Fresno County
- Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
- Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley
- Luis Patlan, City of Dinuba
- Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
- Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
- Dennis Keller, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
- Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer and Alta I.D.
- Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
- Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D.
- Tricia Stever Blattler, Tulare County Farm Bureau
- Mayo Ryan, Fresno County Farm Bureau
- John Kirk, DWR
- Dane Mathis, DWR
- John Sanders, Orange Cove I.D.
- Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove I.D.
- JR Shannon, Shannon Ranches
- Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center
- Michael Prado, Sultana CSD/AGUA
- Martha Lowrey, Cutler PUD
- Maria Elena, Vidana, Orosi PUD
- Lucy Rodriguez, East Orosi CSD
- Dennis Mills, Kings CWD
- Joel Nelsen, California Citrus Mutual
- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League
- Michael Rivera, Assemblyman Perea
- Eric Osterling, KRCD

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes of the August 20, 2015
3. Additions or Deletions to Agenda
4. Status of AB 1135 (2:00 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.)
 - A. Perea Meeting on Monday, September 14, 2015
 - B. Next Steps

5. Status of Kings River East GSA MOU (2:20 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.)
 - A. Review Draft MOU
 - B. Next Steps
6. Kings Basin Coordination (2:50 p.m. to 3:10 p.m.)
 - A. Boundary issues
 - B. Kings Basin Model
7. City of Orange Cove Secondary Water Supply (3:10 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.)
8. Other items for Discussion
9. Next Meeting Thursday, October 15, 2015

Kings River East GSA Meeting

DATE: August 20, 2015

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: City of Dinuba, City Hall Council Chambers, 405 E El Monte Way, Dinuba, CA 93618

TO:

- Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
- Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
- Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.
- John Kalender, Alta I.D.
- Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
- Denise English, Tulare County
- Ernest Buddy Mendes, Fresno County Supervisor
- Allan Weaver, Fresno County
- Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
- Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley
- Luis Patlan, City of Dinuba
- Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
- Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
- Dennis Keller, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
- Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer and Alta I.D.
- Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
- Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D.
- Tricia Stever Blattler, Tulare County Farm Bureau
- Mayo Ryan, Fresno County Farm Bureau
- John Kirk, DWR
- Dane Mathis, DWR
- John Sanders, Orange Cove I.D.
- Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove I.D.
- JR Shannon, Shannon Ranches
- Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center
- Michael Prado, Sultana CSD/AGUA
- Martha Lowrey, Cutler PUD
- Maria Elena, Vidana, Orosi PUD
- Lucy Rodriguez, East Orosi CSD
- Dennis Mills, Kings CWD
- Joel Nelsen, California Citrus Mutual
- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League
- Michael Rivera, Assemblyman Perea
- Eric Osterling, KRCD

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes of the July 16, 2015
3. Additions or Deletions to Agenda
4. Status of the initial Kings River East MOU (2:00 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.)
5. Status of Kings River East GSA - Next Steps (2:10 p.m. to 3:10 p.m.)

- A. Discuss survey of priority issues
 - B. Evaluate MOU or other options to move forward to insure compliance (June 2017), possibly as an interim measure
 - C. Special district legislation (AB 1135 Perea)
6. Kings Basin Coordination (3:10 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
- A. Boundary issues
 - C. Kings Basin Model
7. Other items for Discussion
8. Next Meeting Thursday, September 17, 2015

Kings River East GSA Meeting

DATE: July 16, 2015

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: ALTA ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA

TO: Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.
John Kalender, Alta I.D.
Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
Denise English, Tulare County
Allan Weaver, Fresno County
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
Dan Meinert, City of Dinuba
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Dennis Keller, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.
Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D.
Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District
Tricia Stever Blattler & Joey Airoso, Tulare County Farm Bureau
John Kirk & Dane Mathis, DWR
John Sanders, Orange Cove I.D.
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove I.D.
JR Shannon, Shannon Ranches
Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center
Michael Prado, SCSD/AGUA
Dennis Mills, Kings CWD
Joel Nelson, California Citrus Mutual
Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League
Eric Osterling, KRCD

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes of the June 18, 2015

3. Additions or Deletions to Agenda
4. Status of the Kings River East MOU (2:00 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.)
5. Status of the Kings River East GSA legislation (2:10 p.m. to 2:50p.m.)
 - A. Senate Water and Natural Resources Hearing (July 14, 2015, 9:30 a.m.)
 - B. Senate Governance and Finance Committee (July 15, 2015)
 - C. Next Steps
6. Kings Basin Coordination (2:50 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
 - A. One Plan, with chapters option:
 - B. Multiple plans with a coordination agreement
 - C. Kings Basin Model
 - D. Boundary issues
7. Other items for Discussion
8. Next Meeting Thursday, August 20, 2015

East Kings Sub-Basin Meeting

DATE: June 18, 2015

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: ALTA ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA

TO: Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.
John Kalender, Alta I.D.
Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
Denise English, Tulare County
Allan Weaver, Fresno County
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
Dan Meinert, City of Dinuba
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Dennis Keller, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.
Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D.
Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District
Tricia Stever Blattler & Joey Airoso, Tulare County Farm Bureau
John Kirk & Dane Mathis, DWR
John Sanders, Orange Cove I.D.
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove I.D.
JR Shannon, Shannon Ranches
Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center
Michael Prado, SCSD/AGUA
Dennis Mills, Kings CWD
Laura Brown, California Citrus Mutual

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes of the May 21, 2015
3. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

4. Status of the East Kings MOU (2:00 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.)
5. Status of East Kings GSA legislation 2:10 p.m. to 2:50p.m.)
 - (A) Review three options (review and take action)
 - (B) legislative process (update by Bob Reeb, 2:30 p.m.)
6. Kings Basin Coordination (2:50 p.m. to 3:05 p.m.)
7. Department of Water Resources Facilitation (3:05 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.)
8. Other items for Discussion
9. Next Meeting Thursday, July 16, 2015

East Kings Sub-Basin Meeting

DATE: May 21, 2015

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: ALTA ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA

TO: Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.
John Kalender, Alta I.D.
Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
Denise English, Tulare County
Allan Weaver, Fresno County
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
Dan Meinert, City of Dinuba
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Dennis Keller, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.
Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D.
Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District
Tricia Stever Blattler & Joey Airoso, Tulare County Farm Bureau
John Kirk & Dane Mathis, DWR
John Sanders, Orange Cove I.D.
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove I.D.
JR Shannon, Shannon Ranches
Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center
Michael Prado, SCSD/AGUA
Dennis Mills, Kings CWD
Laura Brown, California Citrus Mutual

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes of the April 23, 2015 meeting

3. Additions to Agenda
4. Interested Parties
 - A. Status of the Fresno County Coordinated Process:
 - (1) MOU Status
 - (2) Committee Assignments
 - B. Status of East Kings GSA Pre-Planning:
 - (1) Draft Legislation
 - (2) Implementation
 - (3) MOU Execution
 - C. Sub-basin designation
6. Other items for Discussion
7. Next Meeting Thursday, June 18, 2015

East Kings Sub-Basin Meeting

DATE: April 23, 2015

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: ALTA ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA

TO: Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.
John Kalender, Alta I.D.
Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
Denise English, Tulare County
Allan Weaver, Fresno County
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
Dan Meinert, City of Dinuba
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Dennis Keller, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.
Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D.
Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District
Tricia Stever Blattler & Joey Airoso, Tulare County Farm Bureau
John Kirk & Dane Mathis, DWR
John Sanders, Orange Cove I.D.
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove I.D.
JR Shannon, Shannon Ranches
Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center
Michael Prado, SCSD/AGUA

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting (include date of last meeting and copy of minutes)
3. Additions to Agenda

4. Interested Parties
 - A. Status of East Kings MOU:
 - B. Status of East Kings GSA Pre-Planning:
 - (1) Draft Legislation
 - (2) Implementation
 - C. Sub-basin designation
5. Kings Basin
 - A. Draft MOU East Kings GSA
 - B. Coordination of GSAs MOU
6. Other items for Discussion
7. Next Meeting Thursday, May 21, 2015

East Kings Sub-Basin Meeting

DATE: March 26, 2015

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: ALTA ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA

TO: Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.
John Kalender, Alta I.D.
Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
Denise English, Tulare County
Allan Weaver, Fresno County
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
Dan Meinert, City of Dinuba
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Dennis Keller, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.
Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D.
Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District
Tricia Stever Blattler & Joey Airoso, Tulare County Farm Bureau
John Kirk & Dane Mathis, DWR
John Sanders, Orange Cove I.D.
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove I.D.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting (February 26, 2015)
3. Additions to Agenda
4. Interested Parties

- A. Status of East Kings MOU
 - B. Status of East Kings GSA Pre-Planning:
 - (1) Draft Legislation
 - (2) Implementation
 - (3) Meeting with KRCD Steering Committee
 - (4) Meeting with KR Legislative Committee
 - C. Sub-basin designation
- 5. Kings Basin
 - A. Draft MOU
 - B. Coordination of GSAs
 - 6. Other items for Discussion
 - 7. Next Meeting Thursday, April 23, 2015

East Kings Sub-Basin Meeting

DATE: February 26, 2015

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: ALTA ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA

TO: Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.
John Kalender, Alta I.D.
Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
Denise English, Tulare County
Allan Weaver, Fresno County
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Dennis Keller, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.
Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D.
Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District
Tricia Stever Blattler & Joey Airoso, Tulare County Farm Bureau
John Kirk, Dane Mathis, Jose I Faria, DWR
John Sanders, Orange Cove I.D.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting (January 22, 2015)
3. Additions to Agenda
4. Interested Parties
 - A. Status of East Kings MOU
 - (1) Evaluate separate sub-basin
 - (2) Evaluate formation of GSA generally east of the Kings River

- B. Status of East Kings GSA Pre-Planning (PowerPoint presentation)
 - C. Principles of discussion for legislation to form GSA
- 5. Kings Basin MOU
 - A. Facilitate relationship within the Basin
 - B. Coordinate GSAs within Basin
 - C. Formation of Joint Powers Authority
- 6. Other items for Discussion
- 7. Next Meeting Thursday, March 26, 2015

East Kings Sub Basin Meeting - GSA

DATE: January 22, 2015

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: ALTA ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA

TO: Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.
John Kalender, Alta I.D.
Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
Denise English, Tulare County
Allan Weaver, Fresno County
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Dennis Keller, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.
Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D.
Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District
Tricia Stever Blattler & Joey Airoso, Tulare County Farm Bureau
John Kirk, Dane Mathis, Jose I Faria, DWR
John Sanders, Orange Cove I.D.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Minutes
 - A. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting (December 11, 2014)
 - B. Placing approved minutes on Alta ID's website
3. Additions to Agenda
4. Interested Parties
 - A. Status of MOU

- B. Discussion and direction
5. Formation of Separate Sub Basin
 - A. DWR Rules and Regulations developing boundary changes/separate sub basins
 - B. Legislation
 - (1) Example of Legislative Groundwater Management Act (Fox Canyon)
 - (2) Power point of essential elements for a Groundwater Management Act
 - (3) Timeline
 - C. Interconnection between Rules and Regulations and Legislation
 6. Other items for Discussion
 7. Next Meeting Thursday, February 19, 2015

East Kings Sub Basin Meeting - GSA

DATE: December 11, 2014

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: Alta Irrigation District, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA 93618

TO: Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.
John Kalender, Alta I.D.
Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
Denise English, Tulare County
Allan Weaver, Fresno County
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Dennis Keller, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.
Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D.
Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District
Tricia Stever Blattler & Joey Airoso, Tulare County Farm Bureau
John Kirk, Dane Mathis, Jose I Faria, DWR
John Sanders, Orange Cove I.D.
Dr. Kenneth D. Schmidt, Geo-Hydrologist

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting (October 23, 2014)
3. Additions to Agenda
4. Forming a Separate Sub Basin
 - A. Report by Ken Schmidt on the applicability of a separate sub basin
 - B. Discussion and direction by interested parties
5. Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU")
 - A. Applicability of MOU
 - B. Timetable for approval
 - C. Discussion and direction by the interested parties
6. Next steps
7. Next Meeting Thursday, January 22, 2014

Kings River East GSA Meeting – Minutes

DATE: February 18, 2016

TIME: 2:00PM

LOCATION: City of Reedley, City Hall Council Chambers, 1733 9th Street Reedley, CA

ATTENDEES:

Chris Kapheim, Alta ID	Doug Jensen, Baker, Manock & Jensen
Norman Waldner, Alta ID	Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock & Jensen
Jack Brandt, Alta ID	Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley, Engineer
John Kalender, Alta ID	Eric Osterling, KRCD
Julieta Martinez, Tulare County	Mayo Ryan, Fresno Farm Bureau
Augustine Ramirez, Fresno County	Michael Prado Sr., SCSD/AGUA
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County	Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Steve Supp, Fresno County	Fernie Rubalcaba, Cutler PUD
Dean Uota, City of Dinuba	Jackson Moore, Dinuba Sentinel
Mike McKenzie, Department of Water Resources	Don A. Write, Self

Welcome:

Chris Kapheim welcomed everyone for attending. He said the purpose for changing the location of the GSA meeting from the City of Dinuba to the City of Reedley in a short notice was due to a power outage that occurred around 11:45am. He thanked everyone for attending.

Approval of Minutes of last meeting (01/21/2016):

The minutes were approved as written.

Additions to the Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

New Business:

Chris Kapheim began the meeting by showing two newspaper articles, one from the Dinuba Sentinel and the other from the San Luis Obispo Tribune. Both articles discussed groundwater and how it pertains to groundwater management.

Update MOU/MOA:

Chris Kapheim presented a chart that showed the compliance schedule for local agencies. At this point all agencies have signed the MOU with the exception of Tulare County which is scheduled to take action the first part of March 2016.

Chris Kapheim mentioned that Senator Andy Vidak will be carrying the bill and is in the process of reviewing any amendments. There will be an amendment submitted to allow new drinking water agencies to be incorporated in the drinking water category specified in SB 37. The legislation will go to the legislative committees in 2016.

Doug Jensen explained that the amendment will allow new district/agencies to join the Kings River East GSA without changing the legislation in the future.

Chris Kapheim also reviewed the Department of Water Resources GSA Formation Notification Guidelines for Local Agencies. See **Attachment C**.

Chris Kapheim stated that at the March meeting, the Kings River East GSA will hold a public hearing at the City of Dinuba Council Chambers and a general meeting of the interested parties immediately after the public hearing.

Per *Notice 6066* a Public Hearing notice was placed in the local newspaper, in which the Kings River East GSA will take action to apply to the Department of Water Resources to become an official Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

Mike McKenzie from the Department of Water Resources stated that we are following the Guidelines and that after applying to become a GSA there will be a 90-day review period.

Eric Osterling stated that Kings Basin is rich in data but until the GSP regulations come out in February, there isn't much we can do in terms of technical work. It is anticipated that the GSP regulations will be in draft form in February 2016. One of the questions that he has is how the coordination from basin to basin will look like. He also stated that we will have to look at the high and low thresholds of groundwater and monitor that. The regulations will require the GSA to be sustainable in 20 years with 5 year incremental status reporting.

Chris Kapheim stated that he will begin to create a technical committee. Solicitations for the technical committee will be sent out in March.

Chris Kapheim stated that by the March 17th meeting we will have collected all of the signed MOUs. He also reminded everyone that the Public Hearing will be on March 17th.

LMR

Kings River East GSA Meeting – Minutes

DATE: January 21, 2016

TIME: 2:00PM

LOCATION: City of Dinuba, City Hall Council Chambers, 405 E El Monte Way, Dinuba CA

ATTENDEES: Chris Kapheim, Alta ID
Norman Waldner, Alta ID
Jack Brandt, Alta ID
John Kalender, Alta ID
Steve Worthly, Tulare County Supervisor
Augustine Ramirez, Fresno County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Benjamin Gooding, Department of Water Resources
Doug Jensen, Baker, Manock & Jensen
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley, Engineer
Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District
Eric Osterling, KRCD
Tricia Stever Blattler, Tulare County Farm Bureau
Kristin Dobbin, CWC
Michael Prado Sr., SCS/AGUA
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Chris Valadez, CA Fresh Fruit Association.
Fernie Rubalcaba, Cutler PUD

Welcome:

Chris Kapheim welcomed everyone for attending. He said the purpose for the December GSA meeting was to review the revised MOU and to give an update on AB 1135.

Approval of Minutes of last meeting (12/10/2015):

The minutes were approved as written.

Additions to the Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Update MOU/MOA:

Chris Kapheim said the revised MOU was sent out to all the parties. He mentioned that most of the MOUs have been signed by the interested members and that the hard deadline of March 1, 2016 is still in effect.

Chris Kapheim stated the MOU fee structure to obtain a legal opinion for authority under Proposition 26 and the budgeting scope of work for SGMA implementation are being sent to Alta ID, fiscal agent for Kings River East GSA.

Chris Kapheim Mentioned that we are scheduled to meet the March 1st deadline; at that point we will apply to become a GSA to the Department of Water Resources.

Chris Kapheim informed all the Kings River East GSA Interested Members that the special act legislation is under Legislative Council review now. The proposed amendments have been implemented to the special act legislation with the exception of section 507.

Kristin Dobbin mentioned that there should be an amended to the special act legislation that will allow future special agencies to join the Kings River East GSA; more specifically the communities of Yettem and Seville, which are in the process of becoming a drinking water agency.

Gary Horn asked who would carry the legislative bill since Henry T. Perea has stepped down.

Chris Kapheim said that Senator Andy Vidak has taken up the legislative bill. Senator Vidak's district area encompasses all of Alta ID's area and predominantly in the Tulare and Kings County area.

Chris Kapheim began to review the Draft Department of Water Resources Groundwater Sustainability Implementations presentation. See **Attachment A**

Chris Kapheim reviewed the Department of Water Resources GSA Frequently Asked Questions. See **Attachment B**.

Benjamin Gooding from the Department of Water Resources stated that most of the questions in the FAQ's have been developed for other GSAs that are about to or have just started to ask questions regarding SGMA.

Chris Kapheim also reviewed the Department of Water Resources GSA Formation Notification Guidelines for Local Agencies. See **Attachment C**. Noticing under Government Code 6066 will be required.

Eric Osterling stated that Kings Basin is rich in data but until the GSP regulations come out in February, there isn't much we can do in terms of technical work. It is anticipated that the GSP regulations will be in draft form in February 2016

Chris Kapheim stated that he will begin to create a technical committee.

Tricia Stever Blatter recognizes all the work Chris Kapheim and his staff has done. She stated that Alta Irrigation District has been proactive since July of 2014.

Chris Kapheim stated that by the end of February we should have collected most of the MOUs. A final summary of all signed MOUs will take place as part of the February 18, 2016 Kings River East GSA meeting.

LMR

Kings River East GSA Meeting – Minutes

DATE: December 10, 2015

TIME: 2:00PM

LOCATION: City of Dinuba, City Hall Council Chambers, 405 E El Monte Way, Dinuba CA

ATTENDEES: Chris Kapheim, Alta ID
Norman Waldner, Alta ID
Jack Brandt, Alta ID
John Kalender, Alta ID
Steve Worthly, Tulare County Supervisor
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Augustine Ramirez, Fresno County
Alan Weaver, Fresno County
Scott Seekatz, Representative for Senator Andy Vidak
Paula Vinzant, Representative for Senator Andy Vidak
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Mike McKenzie, Department of Water Resources
Doug Jensen, Baker, Manock & Jensen
Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock & Jensen
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley, Engineer
Dean Uota, City of Dinuba
Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District
Eric Osterling, KRCD
Tricia Stever Blattler, Tulare County Farm Bureau
Kristin Dobbin, CWC
Michael Prado Sr., SCSD/AGUA
Maria Alvarado, Farmer

Welcome:

Chris Kapheim welcomed everyone for attending. He said the purpose for the December GSA meeting was to review the revised MOU and to give an update on AB 1135.

Approval of Minutes of last meeting (9/17/2015):

Tricia Stever Blattler and Bernard Jimenez indicated there was a misspelling of their name in the minutes. After the noted change, the minutes were approved.

Additions to the Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Update MOU/MOA:

Chris Kapheim said the revised MOU was sent out to all the parties. Kings River Water District has taken action to join the Kings River East GSA. He also stated that the hard deadline of March 1, 2016 is still in effect and that starting in January Alta ID will start to contact and collect the signed MOUs. As of now, the following agencies have approved and signed the MOU: Alta ID, City of Dinuba, City of Reedley, and the County of Tulare.

Chris Kapheim stated the MOU fee structure is still in place to obtain a legal opinion for authority under Proposition 26 and the budgeting scope of work for SGMA implementation.

Michael Prado Sr. stated that he needed a revised MOU to be dropped off at the Sultana Elementary School.

Long-term Goals:

Chris Kapheim informed all the Kings River East GSA Interested Members that Assembly Man Henry T. Perea resigned from the Assembly effective December 31, 2015. Kapheim stated that he met with Senator Andy Vidak to discuss a possible “plan b” if Assemblyman Perea would not be able to carry the bill. At this time, senator Vidak has committed to carrying the bill language.

Chris Kapheim said that in March 2016, the intent is to hold a public hearing and initiate the “Notice of Intent” to file a GSA for the Kings River East region.

Eric Osterling presented to all interested parties a few draft boundary maps of the proposed GSA. He identified the gray areas that will require legal description and is working with his staff and other agencies to accurately identify the boundaries. His focus is to ensure that the entire basin is covered by GSA’s.

Tricia Stever Blatter said that there are draft rules/requirements that have been released by DWR and she would forward them to Kapheim.

Chris Kapheim stated that in January he would start collecting the MOUs and to continue forward with the legislation effort.

LMR

Kings River East GSA Meeting – Minutes

DATE: October 15, 2015

TIME: 2:00PM

LOCATION: City of Dinuba, City Hall Council Chambers, 405 E El Monte Way, Dinuba CA

ATTENDEES: Chris Kapheim, Alta ID
Norman Waldner, Alta ID
Jack Brandt, Alta ID
John Kalender, Alta ID
Ernest Buddy Mendes, Fresno County Supervisor
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Michael Rivera, Representative for Assembly Member Henry Perea
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Doug Jensen, Baker, Manock & Jensen
Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock & Jensen
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley, Engineer
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove ID
Eric Osterling, KRCD
Tricia Stever Blattler, Tulare County Farm Bureau
Mayo Ryan, Fresno County Farm Bureau
Michael Prado Sr., SCSD/AGUA
Chris Valadez, CA Fresh Fruit Association
Jackson Moore, the Dinuba Sentinel

Welcome:

Chris Kapheim welcomed everyone for attending. He said the purpose of today was to review the draft MOU/MOA and a long term solution.

Approval of Minutes of last meeting (9/17/2015):

Michael Prado Sr. indicated there was a misspelling of his name in the minutes. After the noted change minutes were approved.

Additions to the Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Draft MOU/MOA:

Chris Kapheim said the draft MOU/MOA was sent out to all the parties. Most of the feedback received was from Fresno County. Fresno County had a few issues with some items pertaining to the MOU/MOA and the creation of a legal entity. The intent of the MOU/MOA is to (i) set forth the direction to create a joint powers authority or special act district; (ii) provide funding for budget scope of work and fee implementation; and (iii) initiate the notice procedure with the Department of Water Resources on creating a GSA.

Buddy Mendes said he did not have any contact with the Fresno County's legal counsel.

Bernard Jimenez said the MOU included provisions pertinent to a separate entity that needed clarification.

Chris Kapheim stated a new draft of the MOU will be sent out to clarify and remove some the items Fresno County had issues with.

Chris Kaphiem said the MOU is important; we need it in order to meet the schedule and commitments. The basic intent of the MOU is to be a step in the process. We don't know if Assembly member Perea will carry the bill; in either case the end result will be a JPA or special act district.

Long-term Goals:

Chris Kapheim said in December Assembly member Perea will have a meeting to determine if special act district is to move forward. Assembly member Perea tasked us to develop a legal memo that compared the difference between a JPA and special act. CID and FID also had to address their issues of concern.

Chris Kapheim discussed the attached "Know Your Options" presentation (**see Insert A**)

Chris Kapheim said that in March 2016, the intent is to file the intent to be a GSA.

Doug Jensen gave an analogy comparison of JPA vs Special Act District and he it compared to opening a business as a Partnership (JPA) vs Corporation (Special Act). In a partnership the members are exposed to certain amount of liability. The partnership agreement can also be changed with the majority votes of its members. A special act has no "owner" and has its own treasury. It has some real advantages of protecting its members as well as having Ag's position assured. The special act district would be the best option for this GSA because it offers political and legal advantages. The special act district protects the assets of its individual members.

Chris Kapheim said the draft MOU protects and includes Ag. State law doesn't prohibit the use of Ag. The MOU wouldn't be the GSA. The MOU is meant to be a step toward the long-term solution. Perea will determine in December whether to move forward with the special act legislation.

Chris Kapheim said it's unrealistic to believe that this GSA won't be involved in any litigation. We are not set up to defend such litigation. We have been concerned about this issue since the beginning. This is why we have been looking at a special act.

Nicole Zieba said there are many reasons why having a special act district is important. We are not setting precedent for other agencies within the San Joaquin Valley to follow. Other GSA's don't want to include municipal entities. We have our own unique issues and are evaluating solutions.

Buddy Mendes said there are definite political problems. He agreed that this GSA has special needs. He has four areas which he represents and each area is doing something different.

Chris Kapheim said he has been asked by several landowners if our plan will work? It will not work without Ag support.

Tricia Stever Blattler stated the special act seems to make a lot of sense. Manuel Cunha and some of the other folks who oppose the special act need to be in our meetings.

Chris Valadez said there is no homogeneous solution that can be applied to the GSA and that would satisfy everyone. He doesn't believe what we do here will influence what others do. The special act is what works for this local area.

Mayo Ryan said the law has been written and it allows for regional variability. He doesn't know why there is an "US versus THEM" mentality within the basin.

Chris Kapheim stated that regional coordination should be based on technical criteria not politics.

Buddy Mendes said we have tried to get all the parties together. He feels he we can make this work. This has been so politicized. When something new comes up in the Kings River many people get uneasy about it.

Mayo Ryan stated there maybe funding available but there is only a short window to access money.

Bernard Jimenez said the funding is only available to the counties and Fresno County will be applying for funds.

Tricia Stever Blattler said that she is aware that Tulare County will also be applying for those funds as well.

Doug Jensen asked Tricia Stever Blattler, "What is happening in the Kaweah basin?"

Tricia Stever Blattler stated that the Kaweah basin applied for DWR facilitation services and has held 3 stakeholder meetings. There will probably be 3-5 sub-basins within the Kaweah basin.

Michael Rivera said Assembly member Perea is committed to moving forward with the special legislation act. His office has not received much from the concerned parties; they have not reached out nor have they articulated their concerns in writing, as requested by Assemblyman Perea . From what he has heard from other meeting is that other parties do not want to include Ag. The other groups feel that they will be required to do the same if the act passes.

Bernard Jimenez said there is a lack of understanding. He asked if a JPA would have voting representation by Ag/Water groups. Why go a for a special act when you can do the same with a JPA?

Michael Rivera said the level of protection is not transparent. People do not see the protection a special act provides.

Chris Kapheim said the liability issue was reviewed. Fundamentally, the special act provides better protection from litigation.

Bernardo Jimenez said it can be a level of preference. You can make the same political point under the relationships among members for a JPA.

Nicole Zieba said we are not battling JPA versus a special act district. The inclusion of Ag and timing of the bill may be the issue here. Ag is important in our region; Ag will be at the table.

Michael Rivera stated this GSA is the most advanced in the area. Fear is an underlying factor by some other agencies.

Nicole Zieba asked if timing is an issue for some other groups; can we hold off in filing?

Chris Kapheim said initiating the intent to file a GSA will take place in March 2016. Then there is a 90 day review period prior to acknowledging GSA formation by DWR.

Bernard Jimenez said currently there is an MOU in place if there is no other MOU. He doesn't see the Fresno County board having any major issues.

Chris Kapheim said we will redraft and resubmit the MOU. In December, a better understanding of GSA regulations will be known. We are taking the conservative approach to move the process forward.

Tricia Stever Blatter stated that in light of the issues, fears of the unknown and threat of timing, is there an alternative to moving forward?

Chris Kapheim said that we have to make decision on a technical basis and stay away from political distractions.

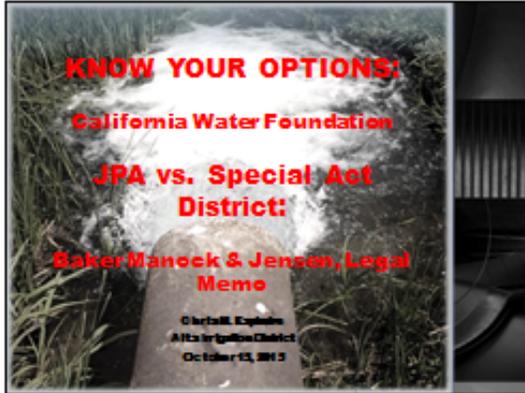
Eric Osterling said it's difficult to make headway without proper agreements. People have a lot of misconceptions and differences of opinion. We all have to get together and work it out.

Tricia Stever Blatter said using a facilitator can help with stakeholder engagement, coordination agreements, transparency and Brown Act issues.

Chris Kapheim said facilitation of the coordination agreement would be a good idea.

Chris Kapheim stated that he was unsure there would be a meeting in November or December.

IJT



Groundwater Management Issues

- Comparison of JPA and MOA
- Probationary Status
- GSA Implementation
- JPA versus Special Act District

Comparison of JPAs and MOAs

*Comparing JPAs and MOAs

Type of Agreement	Governing Law	Primary Use	Non-Public Entity	Issue Reside	Payment/ Justice	Enforceable	Practical Mandates from Liability	2010 Sustainable
Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)	California Gov. Code 8650 et. seq.	Operate a regional public entity	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, User Comply	Yes, JPA is more practical	Enforceable, JPA
Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)	California Government Code	Memoranda agreement among parties	No	No	No	No, they are bound by requirements	No, generally an MOA does not offer the same protection as a JPA	Enforceable, members

* Source: Charfoll and Ryan Began, "Know Your Options: A Guide to Planning Groundwater Sustainability Agreements," California Water Foundation (2013).

Probationary Status

- Water Code 10735.2: (non-compliance)
 - One plan for basin
 - Multiple plans for basin

Probationary Status Cont'd

- Water Code 10735.4: (consequences)
 - 180 days to remedy
 - Board may appoint a mediator or facilitator
 - Board may provide additional time
 - Board may develop an interim plan

Probationary Status Cont'd

- Water Code 10735.6: (further consequences)
 - Board to identify deficiencies and necessary corrective actions
 - Board may develop an interim plan one year after being designated a probationary basin

Probationary Basin Cont'd

- Water Code 10735.8: (probationary implementation)
 - Public Hearing
 - Adopt findings of required actions
 - Interim Plan may include:
 - Restriction of groundwater extraction
 - Physical solution
 - Administration of surface water rights
 - Board may decline to rescind its interim plan
 - Board may amend or rescind interim plan

GSA Implementation

- Notice under Government Code 6066
- Public Hearing
- 30 day notice period to DWR
 - Boundary
 - Other GSAs operating within basin
 - Resolution
 - Bylaws, ordinances or authorities
 - List of interested parties

GSA Implementation Cont'd

- Non-Public Agency Representation:
 - Delegate voting (JPA/MOA)
 - Associate membership (JPA/MOA)
 - Form a new public agency (Special Act District)

JPA vs. Special Act District

- JPA
 - Legal entity and must comply with open meeting laws
 - Legal authority set by joint powers agreement
 - No LAFCo Oversight; sharing resources can save money and time
 - Can delegate by majority vote non local agency rep. (Ag Vote)
 - Requires a strong working relationship between the member agencies
- Special Act District
 - Legal entity and must comply with open meeting laws
 - Legal authority set by legislation
 - LAFCo oversight; advantage in public oversight
 - Ensure Ag representation despite local political changes

Kings River East GSA Meeting- Minutes

DATE: September 17, 2015

TIME: 2:00PM

LOCATION: City of Dinuba, City Hall Council Chambers, 405 E El Monte Way, Dinuba CA

ATTENDEES: Chris Kapheim, ALTA ID
Norman Waldner, ALTA ID
Jack Brandt, ALTA ID
Ernest Buddy Mendes, Fresno County Supervisor
Bernardo Jimenez, Fresno County
Augustine Ramirez, Fresno County
Michael Rivera, Representative for Assembly Member Henry Perea
Luis Patlan, City of Dinuba
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock & Jensen
Fernie Rubalcaba, Cutler P.U.D
Ronnie Castillo, Orosi P.U.D.
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove ID
Eric Osterling, KRCD
Kristin Dobbin, CWC
Michael Prado Sr., SCSD/AGUA
Mayo Ryan, Fresno Farm Bureau
Romelia Castillo, member of Orosi Community

Welcome:

Chris Kapheim welcomed everyone for attending.

Approval of Minutes of last meeting (8/20/15):

Bernardo Jimenez stated a change to the minutes from the 8/20/15 meeting. He said he believed Fresno County would not oppose the MOU and would bring it to them for a vote. After the change minutes were approved.

Additions to the Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Status of AB 1135:

Chris Kapheim discussed the September 14th meeting with Assembly Member Perea. (*See attached Insert pg. 4*).

Michael Rivera concurred with Kapheim's summary of the September 14th meeting. The take away from the meeting was to have the work plan in place by December, so it can be presented in January to the State committees.

Mayo Ryan said the September 14th meeting helped bring him better understanding of the issues.

Buddy Mendes said he left the September 14th meeting feeling optimistic. Assemblyman Perea can mediate the issues among the parties. The Kings River East GSA needs to be firm and move forward with the governance package that it wants. He is encouraging CID and FID to give input and to provide language to this GSA so we can work together.

Chris Kapheim said we have been working on the current governance for the past 6 months. The other groups have a different perspective; the Kings River East has been criticized for addressing the governance issues early in the process rather than focusing on the basin-wide approach.

Michael Rivera said he interacts primarily with 3 of the 4 groups within the Kings Basin. The Kings River East GSA is further ahead from the others. The other groups are nervous. All the groups within the basin still need to be looking at a coordination agreement.

Kristin Dobbin said we need to formalize how the Kings River East GSA is represented. A face needs to be put on the group.

Chris Kapheim said Alta has taken the lead on the Kings River East GSA but Alta has been careful not to speak for the region on policy issues.

Status of the Kings River East GSA MOU:

Chris Kapheim gave a power presentation of the Kings River East GSA MOU. *(See attached Presentation pg. 6)*

Chris Kapheim stated the disadvantage communities and Ag would not be charged the initial administrative fee due to the political realities of offering payment.

Chris Kapheim said Alta has already fronted all the money thus far for the Kings River East GSA and that the MOU will start transitioning to regionally funding the effort.

Nicole Zieba said the City of Reedley recognizes that Alta has fronted all the costs and they are ready to fund the money for their part.

Chris Kapheim said we are looking at an initial funding cost of \$15000. The initial funding would provide legal clarity in developing and implementation of a revenue policy.

Bernardo Jimenez wanted to know the time timeline for the signing of the MOU. The county counsel will need to review the MOU prior to signing it.

Chris Kapheim said the next 2 or 3 weeks. We would like to get our draft out.

Bernardo Jimenez said that other MOU's have developed budgets, and he would provide the Kings River East GSA with an example of one, since this GSA doesn't have a full budget yet.

Michael Rivera said there can alternate funding sources that can help cover some of the fees. There would be grant funding available.

Gary Horn asked, "Who are we anticipating doing the bulk of the work?"

Chris Kapheim said Alta would be the fiscal agent and lead agency. The Kings River East GSA board will determine the funding.

Chris Kapheim stated that comments pertaining to the draft MOU will need to be received by 5:00PM, October 8, 2015.

Michael Pardo asked, "How the 7 member board from the Kings River East GSA will select their representative?"

Chris Kapheim said each member category will to select their representation. The members within a category will need to coordinate and communicate with each other.

Kings Basin Coordination:

Chris Kapheim reviewed the current map structure of the basin. There are different efforts going on in five different regions within the King Basin.

Eric Osterling said that education and communication is taking place, but it is a slow process.

Chris Kapheim said individual areas will start with the regional management areas; then the management areas will be tied together. Coordination is a requirement under the groundwater law.

Chris Kapheim said we will be working with DWR to address with the boundary issues.

Eric Osterling said they met with DWR to give them their draft package. DWR did not look too critically at their draft package and really on looked at the San Joaquin River area.

Chris Kapheim said the Kings Basin Model will demonstrate some trends and help with the coordination.

City of Orange Cove Secondary Water Supply:

Chris Kapheim said he received a letter from the City of Orange Cove. Orange Cove is in our GSA. They need to address issues with a secondary water supply. They need to look at both short term and long term goals. Orange Cove is an example of a regional water issue. They are doing a study and asked Alta ID for support.

IJT

Perea Meeting: AB 1135
Date: September 14, 2015
Fresno, CA

ATTENDED BY:

Henry Perea, Assembly Member
Michael Rivera, Staff to Assembly Member Perea
Steve Worthley, Tulare County Board of Supervisors
Buddy Mendes, Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Chris Kapheim, Alta Irrigation District
Gary Serrato, Fresno Irrigation District
Phil Desatoff, Consolidated Irrigation District
Laura Brown, Citrus Mutual
Mayo Ryan, Vice President Fresno County Farm Bureau
Ryan Jacobson, Fresno County Farm Bureau
Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center
David Orth, Consultant
Eric Osterling, KRCD

BACKGROUND:

Kapheim discussed the reasoning for developing the legislation and next steps. The Kings River East region is in the process of developing a MOU based on the legislative intent of AB 1135. The MOU will allow for some specified funding for plan development: develop a legal opinion regarding Proposition 26 funding implementation and budget requirements for technical services, i.e., geo-hydrologist and the filing of a Notice of Intent to form a GSA in March of 2016. The MOU would be an interim measure that would terminate upon implementation of a more permanent governance structure, i.e., special act district or a joint powers act. The intent is to initially implement an MOU, file a Notice of Intent for GSA implementation in March 2016, and then next year to formalize AB 1135 or a type of long-term arrangement (JPA) to be effective January 2017.

DISCUSSION:

Orth discussed the concern of the Kings River East area developing governance in preference to a basin plan structure. Furthermore, he felt that other areas would be impacted by the legislation, but didn't articulate specifics. He did state that the Sacramento Groundwater Authority is governed by a board that has ag representation and that their process should be evaluated.

Serrato, Fresno Irrigation District, voiced his opinion with legislation that could influence his district. He felt that the irrigation district would provide ag representation on the governing board.

Desatoff, Consolidated Irrigation District, voiced his concern with the inclusion of drinking water agencies to the governance process. He was concerned that the proposed legislation would influence their efforts to manage groundwater.

Assembly Member Perea stated that the leadership from both parties supported the bill and that the legislation has the votes to clear the remaining two committees. He made the legislation a two-year bill to address local issues not legislative issues. He also stated that parties should submit language to address their concerns that can be added to the legislation.

Laura Brown from Citrus Mutual and Steve Worthley, Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors both made comments supporting the legislation.

Buddy Mendes stated that he represented a large section of the Kings Basin and preferred a basin-type solution rather than an individual carve out.

NEXT STEPS:

Perea would call a meeting in December to determine local input. Kapheim would review the mechanism for allowing ag representation on the board for Sacramento Groundwater Authority. Perea would review any language suggestions to address individual agency concerns.

CMK



Why do another MOU?

- Allow the region to start moving forward in terms of groundwater management
- This would be an interim measure with designated purposes
- Next year either special act legislation or a JPA would need to be put in place, effective January 2017, for long-term certainty to develop and implement the GSP

This MOU would do the following

- Set a timeline to initiate the GSA (Notice of Intent would be filed in March 2016)
- Set forth initial administrative funding
- Set forth the governance structure for the GSA
- Begin testing the process of regional collaboration

Initial Administrative Funding would do the following?

- Pay for a legal opinion on how to implement Proposition 26 (Funding for GSP)
- Evaluate a GSP Budget
- Other Administrative Costs

Requirements to initiate the GSA

- Execute the MOU
- Funding parties to pay \$3,000
- Submit a Notice of Intent
- There is a 90 day review period by DWR

Who are the designated funding agency-categories for the initial administrative costs stated in the MOU

- Alta ID
- County of Tulare
- County of Fresno
- Cities (Reedley, Dinuba and Orange Cove)
- Irrigation Districts (Orange Cove ID, Hills Valley ID and Tri-Valley WD)

Initial Authority Granted by MOU

- Alta ID shall be the fiscal agent for the initial administrative costs
- Alta ID shall determine and pay such initial administrative costs

Governance of MOU

- Follows AB 1135
- Seven person board (assuming all designated agencies sign)
- Other parties could sign as interested parties

Termination of MOU

- Thirty day notice
- Initiation of special act district or JPA
- July 1, 2017, if GSA is not formalized for the stated region



Questions or Comments?

Kings River East GSA Meeting - Minutes

DATE: August 20, 2015

TIME: 2:00PM

LOCATION: City of Dinuba, City Hall Council Chambers, 405 E El Monte Way, Dinuba CA

ATTENDANCE: Chris Kapheim, Alta ID
Norman Waldner, Alta ID
Jack Brandt, Alta ID
John Kalendar, Alta ID
Steve Worthley, Tulare County
Bernardo Jimenez, Fresno County
Michael Rivera, Representative for Assembly Member Henry Perea
Luis Patlan, City of Dinuba
Maribel Reynoso, City of Dinuba
Dean Uota, City of Dinuba
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley, Engineer
Doug Jensen, Baker, Manock & Jensen, Attorney
Fernie Rubalcaba, Cutler P.U.D.
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove ID
Dennis Mills, Kings CWD
Michael Pardo, Sr., SCSD/AGUA
Tricia Blatter, Tulare County Farm Bureau
Ryan Mayo, Fresno County Farm Bureau
Laura Brown, CA Citrus Mutual
Stephen Hundt, Hydrometrics WRI
Derrick Williams, Hydrometrics WRI

Welcome:

Chris Kapheim welcomed everyone. Also thanked the City of Dinuba for allowing the meeting at City Hall.

Approval of Minutes of last meeting (7/16/15):

There were no objections to the minutes presented.

Additions to the Agenda:

There were no additions to the Agenda.

Interested Parties:

Status of the Kings EAST GSA MOU:

Chris Kapheim said all MOUs have been authorized and it shows that people are interested.

Status of the Kings River East GSA:

Chris Kapheim said the next step is to look at the priority list of issues from interested parties. The initial results from those who previously submitted the survey indicated two main issues, funding and coordination. Other issues mentioned were reliability and sustainability. Kapheim went around the room and asked all the interested parties to prioritize their primary issues. Seven priority issues were discussed: Boundary, sustainability, coordination, fee, funding, governance, local control and outreach & education.

Chris Kapheim said the purpose of prioritizing the issues is to decide where we go from here. The legislation AB 1135 is still pending. We need to look at initiating an MOU. By doing so, it will help ensure we meet State's requirements to develop a GSA on or before June 2017.

Bernardo Jimenez asked why we are not looking at forming a joint power agreement.

Chris Kapheim explained that a JPA would not be able to include the Ag representation as part of the GSA governance because Ag is not a local agency, as defined by the groundwater legislation that was enacted in 2014.

Bernardo Jimenez said Fresno County is looking at consistency within the county; but does understand why we want to include Ag in the GSA.

Chris Kapheim said we have special circumstances and to be successful, Ag needs to be included.

Nicole Zieba asked two questions. First, she asked the assembly member representative, why bill AB 1135 was pulled? Second, why are we looking at doing an MOU versus other options?

Chris Kapheim explained that the legislation is pending, and if Ag is to be included in the governance, an MOU would be necessitated as an interim measure.

Doug Jensen explained that a special act is the only way to get a private entity in the GSA.

Chris Kapheim stated Alta does not detach urban development from the district. Other special districts, such as KRCD, detach urban development from the district.

Chris Kapheim said this is a long term deal. Production Ag is important; we need to have their support to move forward.

Michael Rivera discussed why AB 1135 was pulled from the hearing. He said things were going well in the days leading up to the hearing. On the Monday before the scheduled hearing, Perea was advised that there were issues and concerns coming from different voices from the Fresno metro area. He felt that these voiced concerns needed to be addressed. He wanted to hear both sides of the concerns especially about production Ag. The intent is to pull all sides together. On September 14th there will be a stakeholders meeting to review all the issues and where we go from here.

Chris Kapheim said Nisei Farmers League voiced their concerns of the split viewpoints in the Kings River Basin.

Chris Kapheim stated that the MOU will be an interim process. He proceeded to ask all interested parties for their support in moving forward. It was a general consensus by the members to continue with the MOU process.

Tricia Blattler questioned if we will end up with the same issues and a disruption of the process of the MOU. There is also concern with the change in leadership within KRCD. She also said she doesn't know if doing an MOU changes anything but we shouldn't lose momentum and move forward with it.

Chris Kapheim stated it is best to move forward in forming an MOU, as an interim measure. If the legislation moves forward, the MOU can be terminated.

Bernardo Jimenez said he would vote for the MOU governance approach. There will be a meeting to address communication issues that lead to misunderstanding and mistrust. We need to identify what we can agree on. DWR won't accept individual plans. They will only accept a collective plan and early submission will be important.

Nicole Zieba was concerned how one person disrupted the collaborative efforts of this group. There have been many accusations and doesn't understand the mistrust.

Michael Rivera said there was much misunderstanding with the issues of the GSA.

Chris Kapheim said we want to address the misunderstanding of our issues. We have always intended to coordinate with the rest of the basin. Our GSA is ahead of everyone else. We will circulate a draft MOU. The legislation will continue on its current path.

Boundary Issues

Chris Kapheim said there are several issues. He identified 3 specific issues 1.) Smith Mountain, half of it is being farmed. The thought is bring it in to the GSA. 2.) Determine the southern boundary. 3.) Clarify boundary between Kings and Tulare Counties.

Doug Jensen said KRCD has a map of four general areas within the basin, ours being one of those areas.

Hydrometric Model Presentation

Derrick Williams discussed the assumptions included in the current model and showed various outcomes. The model is a tool to show basin trends.

IJT

Kings River East GSA Meeting – GSA Minutes

DATE: July 16, 2015

TIME: 2:00PM

LOCATION: ALTA ID, 289 North L St, Dinuba CA

ATTENDANCE: Chris Kapheim, Alta ID
Norman Waldner, Alta ID
Buddy Mendes, Fresno County
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County
Alan Weaver, Fresno County
Dean Uota, City of Dinuba
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley, Engineer
Doug Jensen, Baker, Manock & Jensen
Kristin Dobbins, Community Water Center
Michael Prado, SCS/AGUA
Dennis Mills, Kings CWD
Tricia Blattler, Tulare County Farm Bureau
Paul Adams, Booth Ranches

Welcome:

Chris Kapheim welcomed everyone

Approval of Minutes of last meeting (6/18/15)

There were no objections to the minutes presented,

Additions to the Agenda:

There were no additions to the Agenda

Interested Parties:

Status of the Kings River East GSA MOU

Chris Kapheim reviewed the current signed the MOU and those still pending.

Status of the Kings River East GSA

Chris Kapheim commented that on Monday, July 13, 2015, one day prior to the July 14, 2015 scheduled hearing, Perea was becoming nervous about the bill. There was a possibility of the bill being pulled from the hearing. He explained that the Kings River opposition along with Nisei Farmers League caused the concern. Kapheim did suggest to Perea's staff that if the bill is to be pulled, it should be July 13, 2015, prior to 3:00 p.m. to provide adequate notice to the participants. Kapheim was emailed the morning of the hearing that AB 1135 was pulled.

Tricia Blattler asked what made Perea nervous about the bill.

Chris Kapheim said two things need to be in a place in order to be in compliance with groundwater legislation that was enacted into law last year. First, a groundwater sustainability agency (“GSA”) needs to be filed with the State by 2017; second, a groundwater sustainability plan (“GSP”) submitted to the State in 2020.

Chris Kapheim stated concerns that other groups have with our GSA. Other agencies west of the Kings River believe that AB1135 impacts them. Many were asking for our bill to be made into a two-year bill. As a result of the missed hearing, our bill will become a two-year bill. Furthermore, some districts have concerns with including drinking water agencies into the process.

Nicole Zieba stated that we can still move forward with the King River East GSA even though we don’t have a legislative GSA.

Chris Kapheim said there are 3 types of GSA’s: 1. MOU’s (tend to lack certainty). 2. JPA’s- issue with Ag representation (Ag is not a local agency) 3. Legislative GSA’s-7 person vote plan, that incorporated the drinking water groups, caused the Kings River to oppose the GSA. Alta accounts for both urban and Ag. We recognize that Ag is a big player and need Ag support. Alta didn’t feel it would be possible to initiate a plan without the support of cities, drinking water agencies and agriculture.

Norman Waldner asked about the Kings River having an issue with the Ag vote.

Chris Kapheim clarified that initially the Kings River had an issue with the Ag vote but believes giving a vote to the drinking water agencies caused much of the concern.

Chris Kapheim thanked all the agencies for their letters of support. There was only 1 opposition letter.

Nicole Zieba expressed her dislike on how one phone call undid the collaborative efforts of 14 agencies. She would like to see a possible JPA being established.

Chris Kapheim stated that pulling the bill at the last minute caused an inconvenience to persons who made arrangements to attend the hearing. A face-to-face meeting with Perea will be requested. As a group, we worked hard to make this GSA work. In meeting with Assembly- person Perea, discussion on the willingness to move forward next year needs to be determined.

Chris Kapheim said we all have to do things we don’t like. At the end of the day, the basin will have to coordinate. We have a good product and strong issues. Water quality issues will not be going away. Other parties felt our GSA would be getting in their way; several agencies felt we were much further along the process than they were.

Kings Basin Coordination

Tricia Blattler asked if the Kings River offered an alternative. She also stated that other meetings she was questioned about what this GSA was doing; also about defining who Ag is.

Chris Kapheim said production Ag would be represented.

Doug Jensen stated there won’t be a GSA that will cover the whole basin.

Buddy Mendes stated this GSA has different issues. The problem is how to connect all the interests into a basin approach.

Nicole Zieba asked if we have to support a basin-wide JPA.

Dennis Mills stated that there has been talk of agencies trying to coordinate GSA's under a possible JPA.

Chris Kapheim said that other agencies have water supply issues. The Kings River East GSA has numerous water quality and groundwater supply issues. We need a coordination agreement where we can focus on the positive things and not get in each other's way. This isn't a unique issue.

Dennis Mills said if it can work in Kern County it can work for this GSA. It's a matter of wanting to make it work.

Chris Kapheim stated we have to respect each other's issues. The State is watching how we are working together. We always have known that a coordination agreement is required when there are multiple GSA's in a sub-basin.

Nicole Zieba asked who would carry the gavel. We need to continue with the GSA and do what we need to do and also focus on coordination.

Buddy Mendes said we need to have autonomy. A JPA is more of a confederation rather than a union.

Chris Kapheim explained why Ag representation is important. It's an Ag area. If Ag is represented there is a chance they will support us. We need to get the best possible Ag representation.

Doug Jensen said because we wanted to have a private entity, such as agriculture, we would need legislative support. If successful, others might be scared they would have to do the same thing.

Buddy Mendes asked about having a separate basin.

Chris Kapheim explained initially that was the plan to create a separate basin but, the counties said they would not agree. Therefore, a second MOU was created. It's in our best interest that we can all work together. As a result, AB 1135 does not create a separate sub-basin for the Kings River East GSA.

Nicole Zieba stated since we have all signed the MOU can we just package it and send it to the State.

Dennis Mills said if we submitted our GSA to the State as is, it would set things in motion; it can make more problems.

Chris Kapheim said our GSA is farther ahead than other groups.

Buddy Mendes said a meeting needs to be set up to coordinate with KRCD, Fresno County and FID and CID. Boundary issues will also need to be addressed.

Chris Kapheim said we need to focus on the issues that will ensure state compliance.

Doug Jensen said bill or no bill, the stakeholder process is still here. What is this GSA going to be? JPA? One Entity? We still have the same issues. What can we do the next 6 months? Will this be one agency or several agencies?

Chris Kapheim stated we need to put the pieces back together and concern ourselves with the State's objectives. We still need a series of solutions. We need to look at how we are going to finance ourselves.

Nicole Zieba asked what would've been the next step if the bill would've passed.

Chris Kapheim said the financing of the plan, developing funding, bringing in technical experts. The focus needs to be on the plan and implementation.

Buddy Mendes stated that we need to move forward and not have an over reliance on KRCD.

Chris Kapheim said different areas have different issues.

Buddy Mendes said some irrigation districts don't care about drinking water issues.

Chris Kapheim stated we need to get things started right away. We will leave it to Buddy to call the meeting with KRCD, Fresno County, FID, CID and us. Chris will meet with Perea and discuss the bill.

Boundary Issues

Dean Uota asked about the initial opposition this GSA had in the beginning. He also asked if the West Kings thought that Kings River East GSA was trying to break away from the rest of the basin was factor.

Chris Kapheim stated the original intent was to have a JPA with four water agencies.

Nicole Zieba stated others believe that we want to move away from the basin but that is simply not the case.

Tricia Blattler said in a Kaweah meeting, people there were saying Kings River East plan was DOA!

Nicole Zieba said we are all on the same page. We need to go on the next step and move forward.

Chris Kapheim said we need to start the coordination process with the remainder of the basin. We also need to look at proposition 26 and see how that comes into play.

Doug Jensen asked for all the agencies to create a list of their major issues that need to be addressed.

Chris Kapheim stated a coordination meeting will be set up; fences need to be mended.

Dennis Mills said to set up a time frame and push for the meeting with the other agencies in the basin.

Alan Weaver stated Alta has taken the lead. It's important for all the other agencies to make a list of their issues to be addressed. It serves 2 purposes and helps the GSA move forward.

Other Items of Discussion

Nicole Zieba stated that a well in Reedley tested positive for TCP. The plumes are moving in faster especially due to the drought. Also new and additional water conservation requirements are being implemented. The State is looking at total production and constantly moving the compliance targets.

Dennis Mills said the cities of Tulare, Visalia and Tulare Irrigation District (TID) are forming their own GSA. There are a lot of issues associated with this. Essentially once a group steps out and leads they become a target.

Tricia Blattler said there have been landowner meetings and many people are nervous about the possible Tulare, Visalia, TID GSA.

Doug Jensen said all the GSA's will have to coordinate with the neighboring GSA's. They will all end up having similar plans.

Michael Pardo said there are two items he wanted to bring up. The first being, POM Wonderful/Wonderful pistachio drilled a well in Sultana across from the school. He was told it was initially 330 feet deep but he has also been hearing that the well goes as deep as 1200-1500 feet deep. He is seeking more information. Second, he mentioned the issue of a landowner who has been pumping water and selling it to someone in Los Angeles.

Dennis Mills stated the sale of water in such a way is illegal.

IJT

East Kings Sub-Basin Meeting- GSA Minutes

DATE: June 18, 2015

TIME: 2:00PM

LOCATION: Alta ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba CA

ATTENDANCE: Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.
Steve Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County
Dean Uota, City of Dinuba
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley, Engineer, Alta I.D.
Doug Jensen, Baker, Manock & Jensen
Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock & Jensen
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove Irrigation District
Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center
Micheal Pardo Sr., SCSD/AGUA
Tricia Blatter, Tulare County Farm Bureau
Bob Reeb, Lobbyist (On-Call)
Katie Icho, East Oroshi Community Service District (On-Call)

Welcome:

Chris Kapheim welcomed everyone.

Approval of the Minutes of last meeting (5/21/15)

There were no objections to the minutes presented.

Additions to the Agenda:

There were no additions to the Agenda.

Interested Parties:

Status of the East Kings Sub-Basin MOU:

Chris Kapheim discussed the parties that have signed the MOU and parties that are still pending.

Status of East Kings Sub-Basin GSA Pre-Planning:

Chris Kapheim explained the 3 East Kings GSA Governance Options (AB 1135) Perea that were up for vote. The major difference being among them is the number of votes per agencies. The East Kings Sub-basin is trying to build strong support without taking away from any one agency, as well as help get through the process and committees. Option 3 is the preferred method because it broadens the GSA possibilities and expands functionality.

Norman Waldner wanted to know why the certain Kings River interests west of the Kings River expressed such interest in the East Kings Sub-Basin process.

Chris Kapheim explained the East Kings Sub-Basin GSA is collaborative process which includes drinking water agencies, cities, counties, special districts, and a production Ag representative; the collaborative process makes some districts nervous.

Doug Jensen said the West side of the Kings River wants to be their own GSA instead of a collaborative effort.

Norman Waldner said the East Kings Sub-Basin is addressing issues on the East side that the West side does not address. This is what makes this GSA different.

Chris Kapheim explained that the GSA bill is being double referred to two legislative committees- Governance and Finance and Water and Natural Resources.

Chris Kapheim opened up the floor for further discussion on the three voting options. There was no further discussion and proceeded to the vote. The 15 agencies voted- Option 1- 0 votes, Option 2- 2 votes, Option 3- 8 votes and 6 agencies abstained. The majority consensus was Option 3.

Chris Kapheim instructed Bob Reeb, to move forward with option 3 and incorporate into the legislation.

Kings Basin Coordination:

Chris Kapheim explained the East Kings Sub-Basin GSA is further along in the process compared to others. There will be a linkage agreement between the areas; coordination agreement.

Chris Kapheim explained the Kings River acceptance of option 1; Options 2 & 3 were not supported by the Kings River.

Doug Jensen inquired if there are any signals from the State on what to expect.

Chris Kapheim explained we have to wait for the report from the State.

Doug Jensen stated there are 2 major issues; water quantity (volume) vs. water quality

Chris Kapheim stated other issues include overdraft, subsidence, as well as quality and quantity.

Bob Reed (on call) explained the status of the bill and the steps of the legislative process.

Chris Kapheim said the State will be looking at the Basin as a whole and not as East versus West. The East Kings Sub-Basin needs to get together with the West side. On the next meeting the focus will be on how to accomplish such goal. There is a potential for several other GSA's to be formed.

Doug Jensen stated Fresno Irrigation District and other agencies on the West side have their own set of issues, such as groundwater overdraft. The East Kings Sub-Basin has water quality issues and to a lesser extent groundwater overdraft.

Augustine C. Ramirez asked how do the different agencies figure out how to make it all work; and stated a coordination agreement among the GSA's.

Doug Jensen stated there are different areas with different expectations. He asked if the State was willing to look at the Basin as different areas instead as a one area; perhaps in some way educate the State into a zone mentality.

Department of Water Resources Facilitation:

Craig Moyle said thru MWH and DWR they are here to help with facilitation of the GSA and its establishment of it. There are monies available on a 1st come 1st serve basis. There is \$50,000 worth of support as well as other monies for technical support, outreach and engagement; depending on the basin's needs.

Steve Worthley asked how MWH/DWR will prioritize who gets funds. Is it about the numbers or are they evaluating the overall plan?

Craig Moyle said the State should be very pragmatic and will need to develop a reasonable approach.

Chris Kapheim said they are looking for progress not perfection. The GSA needs to continue the collaborative and coordination process.

Steve Worthley stated the GSA is taking on a more integrated approach. This GSA might not need the DWR/MWH to establish the GSA; but for coordination effort with the rest of the basin, it might.

Craig Moyle stated each GSA will have to adapt to what the State board is going to do. Overall they want a complete basin.

Doug Jensen stated his concern that the State board might want to impose or replace the GSA's.

Craig Moyle gave an example of a possible basin plan.

Tricia Blattler stated Proposition 1 \$100 million dollars is to be released. If the GSA doesn't use DWR/MWH facilitation, does that hurt the GSA?

Craig Moyle said DWR has in mind which GSA's are problematic. Some might need more money than others.

Chris Kapheim stated the 2017 GSA deadline will probably be the focus of DWR. For now we need to agency prior to discussing the plan.

Tricia Blattler asked if the agencies are going to need to write a letter of support for AB1135.

Chris Kapheim said the State is asking for the MOU's from all parties. They are looking to see if the GSA is being supported by the agencies. There might be a need for additional letters of support.

Nicole Zieba asked if we anticipate having members of the GSA traveling to Sacramento.

Chris Kapheim said we will know next week who will need to be in attendance to speak to the committees.

East Kings Sub-Basin Meeting- GSA Minutes

DATE: May 21, 2015

TME: 2:00PM

LOCATION: Alta ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA

ATTENENDANCE: Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
John Kalendar, Alta I.D.
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Dan Meinert, City of Dinuba
Dean Uota, City of Dinuba
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley, Engineer, Alta I.D.
Lauren Layne, Attorney, Alta I.D.
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove I.D.
Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center
Michael Prado, SCSD/AGUA
Dennis Mills, Kings CWD

Welcome:

Chris Kapheim welcomed everyone.

Approval of the Minutes of last meeting (4/23/15)

There were no objections to the minutes presented.

Additions to the Agenda:

There were no additions to the Agenda.

Interested Parties:

Status of the East Kings Sub-Basin MOU:

Chris Kapheim- Discussed the parties that have signed the MOU and parties that are still pending.

Augustine C. Ramirez- Fresno County will review the MOU at the next Fresno County Groundwater coordinating meeting.

Status of East Kings Sub-Basin GSA Pre-Planning:

Chris Kapheim- Indicated Bob Reeb, lobbyist, was supposed to call in for an update but was unable to do so.

Chris Kapheim – Proposed legislation is to be amended in the senate. Very few items changed from the legislative counsel's review of proposed legislation. Perea has to agree with and approve amendments to the proposed legislation. New London is a new party who has joined GSA. Other parties, who are also a part of the same basin, are also looking at the proposed legislation to determine if such process will enable other parties in adjacent areas to coordinate with East Kings GSA.

Chris Kapheim- Coverage of GSA's are to cover entire basin; DWR is interpreting GSP's to provide and determine coverage for the entire basin.

Chris Kapheim – FID, Consolidated, KRCD have all weighed in on the proposed legislation. If governance is unworkable, they don't want it to jeopardize the state of the basin.

Nicole Zieba- Agrees with current governance and if it changes or gets amended, Reedley would review their options, including pulling out.

Boundaries:

Chris Kapheim – DWR is being conservative in implementing boundary changes. Need to know by June about the Kings County residents and whether they will be covered by East Kings GSA or Kings County.

Dennis Mills- Meeting with the Kings County residents is still pending.

Other items for Discussion:

Nicole Zieba - She is part of LAFCO outreach committee with Fresno County. As part of her research, she discovered there are 10 other GSA's previously in existence. Ojai Basin Ground Water Agency is an example and a good resource to get ideas for the GSA.

Chris Kapheim- Indicated he had reviewed Ojai before and liked it because it was scientifically based.

Lauren Layne- Sacramento Valley is another example of a GSA. They are funded by cities within it.

Chris Kapheim- GSA is not a one size fits all; can't treat them all the same. The real challenge is to find the right plan. The fundamentals are to get the funds in place so proper research can be done. A scientific-based study will determine the baseline for GSA.

Chris Kapheim- Addressed the issue of surface water usage instead of groundwater. GSA will evaluate controls & regulations on ground water pumping.

Fergus Morrissey- His agency tries to give growers incentives to use surface water instead of pumping.

Nicole Zieba - Reedley is only 1000 ac/ft out of balance. She didn't like the fact that 35000ac/ft of water was sold off by other districts.

Chris Kapheim- The intent is to implement a sustainability plan to correct the defined undesirable results.

Dan Meinert- Dinuba needs to reduce water usage by 32% to meet State water regulations. One possible way is to reduce residential watering.

Nicole Zieba- Reedley only needs to reduce water usage by 9%. Reedley is looking into implementing an emergency ordinance to allow watering; twice per week. She also indicated that City of Clovis has to cut back by 38% based on 2013 numbers.

Chris Kapheim- State will be reviewing all GSA plans. Funding of GSP's will be critical.

Chris Kapheim- Once legislation is in place, the agency will be created. That is when the real works starts.

Next Meeting Thursday, June 18, 2015

East Kings Sub-Basin Meeting – GSA Minutes

DATE: April 23, 2015

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: ALTA ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA

ATTENDANCE: Tricia Blattler, Tulare County Farm Bureau
Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.
Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center
Denise England, Tulare County
Doug Jensen, Attorney, Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri-Valley Water Districts
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
Lauren Layne, Attorney, Alta I.D.
Dennis Mills, Kings CWD
Michael Prado Sr., SCSD/AGUA
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County
JR Shannon, SK Ranch Mgmt
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.
Steve Worthley, Tulare County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley

Welcome:

Chris Kapheim welcomed everyone.

Approval of the Minutes of last meeting (3/26/15):

Michael Prado asked for clarification on the “general consensus” of proposed bill submission—He didn’t recall a vote of action- Chris Kapheim explained that the group of interested parties discussed and by consensus supported moving forward with no noted opposition.

Additions to Agenda:

Chris Kapheim said Bob Reeb, lobbyist, from Sacramento would be calling in to update status of bill.

Interested Parties:

Status of East Kings Sub-Basin MOU: A revised MOU would be recirculated to all interested parties for signature incorporating all drinking water local agencies within the proposed GSA inclusive of revised language submitted by the County of Tulare.

Status of East Kings Sub-Basin GSA Pre-Planning

Chris Kapheim – Proposed legislation may be classified as a fiscal bill.

2 Amendments were incorporated – Section 501 clarifying language – Ag to Ag Production and Legislative Council requested a map of proposed area.

Doug Jensen- Clarified wording on GSA for Alternates—Draft deemed unclear. He explained each elected representative would have an alternate. 5 member board of County, City, Alta Irrigation, Special Districts, all elected, and elected Ag Production (appointed by elected), will be represented. Each category will decide how they will be represented.

Tricia Blattler- Stated the East Kings Sub-Basin (GSA) would mimic the Fox Canyon GSA Board model.

Bob Reeb- Update(Connected by Phone)

Language anticipated to be returned by 4/24/15, will meet with Perea to review and amend language.

Deadlines are May 1st for fiscal bills and May 15th for non-fiscal. A fiscal bill complicates things and it would have to be amended but many options are available. Bill will need to pass to Assembly by June 1st.

Bob Reeb asked for questions and/or clarification.

Dennis Mills – Asked what triggered the proposed legislation to be termed fiscal? Bob explained mandated agency participation will incur costs; may require language that clarifies that the state won't be required to pay for agency costs.

Tricia Blattler- Asked if our bill was unique, Bob said yes.

Doug Jensen, for now, asked who are the consultants for the special committees reviewing the bill? Bob thought possibly Parks & Wildlife (for conflicts) and the Local Government Committee (governing body & boundaries)

End of phone call.

Boundaries

Norman Waldner stated there is an overlap issue with Kings County. Chris Kapheim said this can be potential issue due to the fact that a small area (approximately 6,000 acres) in Alta ID overlaps with Kings County Water Agency. Kings County WA and Alta ID will meet with the impacted landowners to determine which groundwater authority they prefer to work under. It does not make sense for landowners to be pay for being in two groundwater authorities.

Nicole Zieba was concerned about the City of Reedley being in two different GSA's. The City of Reedley is 95% in Alta ID and 5% in Consolidated ID.

Doug Jensen stated DWR determines exterior GSA boundaries and has yet to set the criteria; plans have to coordinate.

Denise England said the map will become a legal document.

Chris Kapheim - Interior entities can opt not to be included.

Kristin Dobbins- Had several concerns with the GSA as it was worded

1. Recommended specified districts - change language to read “not limited to listed entities”

Tricia Blattler stated Fox Canyon model has 5 seats and everyone was represented.

Kristin Dobbins asked for detail on all public agencies in Fox Canyon.

Kings Groundwater Basin MOU

Denise England indicated Tulare County just received a request from the Kings Groundwater Basin (KGWB) to sign their MOU.

Chris Kapheim expressed his concern with Alta and Tulare County signing the KGWB MOU as entities without clarification that Alta and Tulare County are representing the East Kings Sub-Basin GSA; coordination of the parties is not an Alta or County issue, but an East Kings GSA issue. Chris Kapheim stated that he could attend and bring information back to the East Kings GSA Parties for discussion and approval, but would not sign the MOU as Alta ID. There were no objections.

Doug Jensen made statement that Alta and Tulare County could withdraw from the Fresno County MOU when the new East Kings Sub-Basin was created.

Bernard Jimenez stated the Fresno County MOU could possibly serve as an umbrella agency. He interprets the MOU as not being a binding process, but instead, would help all parties work together. He believes the intent is to coordinate the five neighboring basins through a coordinating process.

Fresno County stated that they are open to signing the East Kings Sub Basin MOU now that the East Kings Sub-Basin MOU was updated and there will not be a proposed East Kings Sub Basin. Bernard also stated that Fresno County SGMA (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act) working group has 22 members and will be having meeting on 4/30/15.

Nicole Zieba recommended additional language to recognize Alta as the representative to the Fresno County process until the GSA is formalized. Also, allow Fresno and Tulare Counties along with Alta to represent East Kings Basin GSA in the Fresno County process.

(It was the consensus of all interested parties to allow Fresno County, Tulare County and Alta ID to attend the Fresno County coordinating process and bring information back to the East Kings GSA process for discussion and action)

Doug Jensen will develop language and circulate revised East Kings GSA MOU to interested parties for signature.

Steve Worthley came in at 2:55pm.

Chris Kapheim asked if there was anything else to discuss. He would circulate the proposed legislation upon receiving it from Legislative Counsel.

There were no objections.

Other Items

Discussion lead to San Juan Capistrano's tiered pricing and the current extreme drought conditions.

Next Meeting Thursday, May 21, 2015

East Kings Sub-Basin Meeting - GSA Minutes

DATE: March 26, 2015

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: ALTA ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA

ATTENDANCE: Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
John Kalender, Alta I.D.
Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
Denise English, Tulare County
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Dennis Keller, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.
Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D.
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove I.D.
Dennis Mills, Kings CWD
Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center
Michael Prado, SCSD/AGUA

Welcome: Chris Kapheim welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes of the last meeting (February 26, 2015):

There were no objections to the minutes presented.

Additions to Agenda: Chris Kaphiem asked Dennis to discuss boundaries later in the meeting.

Interested Parties:

Status of East Kings MOU

Norman Walder asked if KRWD, who does not pump, may form their own GSA.

Chris Kapheim mentioned there were other community service agencies or public utility districts, i.e., London CSD, East Orosi CSD, and Sultana CSD, that as local agencies could have an interest in participating in the process, signing an MOU and being added to the Legislation.

Status of East Kings GSA Pre-Planning:

Draft Legislation

Chris Kapheim presented the suggested language for forming a GSA through the legislative process. Forming a separate sub-basin is a separate process that is subject to DWR's regulations on determining boundaries for a basin. Perea has not seen the draft language until the interested parties are comfortable with it. He asked if there were any comments/thoughts on the draft legislation and reminded everyone that we could continue to work on edits, but the initial language needs to be submitted by Friday.

Bernardo asked for a revision, to spell out the purpose and objective instead of just referring to the statute. The revision was agreed to spell out the purpose of SGMA in Water Code Section 201.

Steve Worthley asked if there was any concern with co-mingling any supplemental water as compared with the King River water which was wholly appropriated water.

Doug Jensen answered he didn't think so for now. Flood waters may be a concern.

Norman Waldner asked if the bill required a board member to be a landowner, who is involved in production agriculture?

Doug Jensen responded the bill was not meant to mirror an irrigation district. The intent was to have an Ag representative with a vested interest. The bill does include language requiring residency and to be primarily engaged in Ag within the territory. Language would be added to reflect production agriculture in Water Code Section 502.

Next to Bernardo – asked how the different types of entities would coordinate their respective representation on the board, if there were multiple agencies and only one seat.

Chris Kapheim responded that should foster discussion among similar agencies on how to best be represented. There is no silver bullet; no one perfect solution.

Steve Worthley agreed it was good to start with the most concise board possible.

Bernardo asked why Alta Irrigation District would receive a seat, if there were other similar irrigation districts in the East Kings GSA.

Chris Kapheim responded Alta Irrigation District holds most of the water rights and approximately 85% of the acreage in the East Kings GSA and the draft legislation was following the Fox Canyon model.

Implementation

Someone asked how will this all be paid for. The costs will be paid for by the landowners, but first we need to create a legal entity to figure out the details.

Steve Worthley threw out assessing extractors to accumulate funds, he also suggested the possibility of an initial per acre until the GSA was able to charge per meter. It was suggested to keep the initial assessments low and start when the entity is created to accumulate funds to cover the studies; not to wait for the last minute to collected funds.

Someone asked how will the cities pay? And who will make these decisions?

Dennis Mills from Kings County Water Agency said the cities already have meters and as an alternate to a meter; employing a satellite imaging usage estimator.

Doug Jensen agreed there were different approaches to fee collection and suggested the possibility of adding the cost to the county property tax bill.

Chris Kapheim said the Board will have powers by the statue to limit groundwater pumping and collect fees, with the intent to get the GSA into sustainability. He repeated, Ag will be feeling most of the impacts and as such needs to be at the table to be engaged in the process instead of fighting us in court. He also mentioned that we have larger, deeper wells coming in and a study was needed before we can make final decisions. His current concern was to get a Board up and running.

Steven Worthly asked for clarification on section 703 supplemental waters.

Doug Jensen said the purpose of section 703 was to avoid any disincentive for anyone for bringing in any supplemental waters.

Bernardo asked how the GSA's powers aligned with the county and city land use issues.

Chris Kapheim answered land issues need to be worked out in coordination with the GSA. Both sides will be looking at the land use issues from different perspectives.

Steve Worthly said Merced has recently adopted a water extraction policy.

Chris Kapheim reminded everyone that by the year 2020, the GSA would be the responsible party of groundwater sustainability. He would hope the cities and counties would work together.

Bernardo agreed the need to align those coordinating details out at the city, county and GSA levels.

Steve Worthy suggested the cities and counties adopt the GSA plan under their respective plans. This process would not take away any powers already belonging to the cities and counties, but it would facilitate the process and leave the GSA with the responsibilities it's been charged with.

Nicole Zieba commented the cities already work with the state and other agencies in coordinating their land use authority.

Doug Jensen also agreed that wearing too many hats would be confusing and the GSA board would only be wearing one hat.

Chris Kapheim said police powers were given to the counties due to lack of granted authority as individual districts. It makes sense to coordinate and have responsible agencies working under one umbrella for effective groundwater control.

Dennis Mills agreed that the cities need to integrate their land use plans under the GSA guidelines.

Boundary issues

Dennis Mills brought up the fact that a few of AID landowners are also in Kings County Water Agency; they may need to decide between GSA's and not necessarily belong to both.

Meeting with KRCD Steering Committee:

Chris Kapheim shared the draft legislation with the KRCD Steering Committee when he met with them last week. The meeting went well.

Meeting with KR Legislative Committee:

Chris Kapheim met with the Kings River Legislation Committee

Sub-basin designation

Kings Basin

Draft MOU

Chris Kapheim - Most likely CID, FID, West Side (through KRCD) and East Side GSA's will make up the Kings Basin GSA. We have not signed onto the Kings Basin's MOU, but have suggested language to look at coordinating GSA's.

Coordination of GSAs

Chris Kaphiem – mentioned there was different discussions going on and that he would continue to disseminate the information.

Bernardo, Fresno County said Fresno County has taken action to adopt a Principles of Governance Agreement with existing authorities, expressing a desire to work together and to set up an advisory board to advise their Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

Chris Kapheim – mentioned the County and City of Fresno have had informal discussion on how to work together, he was asked to sit on their advisory committee.

Steve Worthy said it was wise to address coordination in the early planning stages. Coordination will be defined within GSAs in a basin by DWR within the next year, but for now, we need to open discussion on how to fit and work together. He predicted there would be pressure placed on the existing water right holders to address the worst spots in their basins.

Gary Horn said GSA Plans will not be accepted until coordination is working.

Chris Kapheim said our area has different issues with uncertain groundwater on the east side; different issues from those in the central valley.

In closing, Chris asked if there was any reason not to go forward to the legislation in draft format and restated that this legislation was not to create a separate sub-basin.

Gary Horn said at some point we will all need to take an official position on this with our respective boards.

Bernardo said he would take it to his newly created committee for review, but was not concerned with the concept as provided.

Dennis Mills said we would need to define the boundaries

The general consensus was in favor of submitting the proposed legislative bill now.

Next Meeting Thursday, April 23, 2015

East Kings Sub-Basin Meeting - GSA Minutes

DATE: February 26, 2015

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: ALTA ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA

ATTENDANCE: Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.
John Kalender, Alta I.D.
Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
Denise English, Tulare County
Alan Weaver, Fresno County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
Dan Meinert, City of Dinuba
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.
Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District
Dane Mathis, DWR
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove I.D.

Welcome: Chris Kapheim, AID GM welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes of the last meeting (January 22, 2015):

There were no objections to the minutes as presented.

Additions to Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Interested Parties:

Visited hatted

Status of MOU: The City of Orange Cove, City of Reedley, Alta Irrigation District, Orange Cove Irrigation District, Hills Valley Water District, Cutler Public Utility District, and Tulare County Farm Bureau have adopted the MOU.

The City of Dinuba, Orosi Public Utility District, Tri Valley Water Districts, Tulare County, and Kings River Water District have it on their agendas to review and take action in March 2015.

Chris Kaphiem, Alta I.D. began the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation on the East Kings Sub-Basin & GSA Pre-Planning.

Discussion and direction:

Chris Kaphiem explained the MOU process and the importance of Ag being part of the GSA.

Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor asked why would there be an issue with having Ag as part of the GSA in a JPA format.

Chris Kaphiem explained that the JPA wouldn't allow it because Ag is not a local agency. With a MOU Ag would be part of the GSA and would have a seat at the governance table.

Norman Waldner, Alta I.D. asked what would be the criteria of Ag's representation. Would it be a farmer, farm bureau, citrus or Ag associations?

Chris Kaphiem responded it would have to be a farmer that receives 70-80% of its income from Ag within the GSA.

Formation of Separate Sub Basin:

DWR Rules and Regulations developing boundary changes/separate sub-basins: DWR will begin meetings and discussions in April 2015 regarding sub-basin boundaries. They will also release guidelines and information on their website; their deadline to develop rules and regulations for developing boundaries changes/separate sub-basins is January 2016.

Legislation

Example of Legislative Groundwater Management Act (Fox Canyon): Identifies sub-basin boundaries and a five member board governance structure as one representative from each of the five groups (1) County (2) City (3) Water District (4) Special District and (5) Agriculture.

Power point of essential elements for a Groundwater Management Act; Chris Kapheim went over the Sub-Basin GSA Pre-planning power point addressing two administrative issues: defining the sub-basin area and governance. The boundaries for the sub-basin should be based on hydrological criteria; the proposed governance including agriculture (based on existing Fox Canyon Groundwater Program established by the legislation in 1982 to address their groundwater pumping issues).

Timeline: The deadline to submit a legislative proposal to create a special act groundwater management agency has been met. Alta ID contracted for the services of Reeb Government Relations in Sacramento and Doug Jensen, attorney at law, to assist in the draft legislation.

Interconnection between Rules and Regulations and Legislation:

After the power point presentation, Chris Kapheim asked the group for their thoughts.

Alan Weaver, Fresno County expressed the concern of different agencies managing other agencies. i.e. Fresno County, City of Fresno, KRCD, FID etc. The County is not pushing any kind of government structure at this time. Fresno County is concern on the larger county basin picture and how we can work collectively as one basin; but does not want to have the state to take over.

Steven Worthley asked would Fresno County be opposed to the East Kings GSA.

Alan Weaver there are concerns with multiple governing agencies on the creation of a new sub-basin; But is in agreement in creating a GSA.

Steven Worthley compared the GSA to the Air Quality District. He stated that the Air Quality District focuses on the bad parts of the district and impose rules and regulations on those parts for the whole district. Would the GSA be similar in that aspect since the west side of Kings Basin is the worst affected area? That shouldn't be possible because groundwater does not move like air.

Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley Manager, wants to know how Fresno County is going to address the GSA.

Alan Weaver said that the County Supervisors will meet on March 10, 2015 and review the GSA process from Fresno County's perspective.

Chris Kaphiem shared his review on a recent tour to Turlock irrigation District. He explained that Turlock ID invested 10.9 million dollars in measurement systems and begin compliance with SB X7-7. Forty percent of their water is at risk due to legal issues and delta flow requirements.

That is the fear that the State would have authority to take away water or imposes rules and regulation in our area.

Dane Mathis, DWR stated that DWR will begin meeting on these issues starting in April.

Chris Kaphiem explained that Assemblyman Perea will carry this bill. Assemblyman Perea agrees with the bill concept.

Denise English, Tulare County asked how boundaries will affect the creation of the GSA.

Chris Kaphiem, the boundaries will be the individual agencies boundaries with the exception of the counties. There would be no white area between sub-basins.

Chris Kaphiem highlighted the Draft Principles of Agreement: Cooperative Agreement with other GSA's will be needed; the East Kings GSA will be generally east of the Kings River; Governance by a five-member Board; No impairment of any right or power of interested party(s); Agency is expected to regulate, conserve, manage and control the extraction of groundwater; Agency will operate in an open and transparent manner.

Jack Paxton, KRWD asked how we would follow the Bulletin 118 guidelines. Specifically on the assessments and how would recharge play a role in all of this. Would a Water Master enforce agencies trying to grow or develop, because they would have an impact on groundwater?

Jack Paxton asked if DWR will release the sustainability regulations.

Dane Mathis DWR is gathering input from local government to draft up the guidelines.

Jack Paxton expressed that in 20 years surface water would replenish groundwater but would never get to the level it started from. So why regulate.

Dane Mathis answered it's about being sustainable. DWR will assess the basins every 5 years and evaluate.

Chris Kaphiem met with Mike Soloman, Manager of United Water CD, and reviewed the Fox Canyon Implementation (1982), the good points, the bad points, and the concept of using a Watermaster to insure compliance.

Steven Worthley asked would a Watermaster have authority to regulate.

Chris Kaphiem explained how Fox Canyon 3.5 million dollar model did not work. The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) would need to be created. A Watermaster would have authority, from the board, to implement the plan.

Denise English asked if the governance of the GSA addresses principles and means of enforcement.

Dane Mathis stated that DWR is drafting best management practices for the GSAs. Likes the ideas and will be open to all suggestions. He recommends everyone to have flexibility and to be open to new guidelines.

Chris Kaphiem asked if we are having the right discussions and are going in the right direction.

The general consensus is in favor of the creation of the GSA. There are concerns with the existing sub-basin but are ok with creating the GSA. There were concerns expressed with state regulation for groundwater and how the Ag representative would be selected.

Next Meeting Thursday, March 26, 2015

East Kings Sub Basin Meeting - GSA

DATE: January 22, 2015

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: ALTA ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA

ATTENDANCE: Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.
Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.
John Kalender, Alta I.D.
Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
Denise English, Tulare County
Allan Weaver, Fresno County
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Dennis Keller, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.
Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D.
Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District
Tricia Stever Blattler, Tulare County Farm Bureau
John Kirk, DWR
John Sanders, Orange Cove I.D.

Welcome: Chris Kapheim, AID GM welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes of the last meeting (December 11, 2014):

There were no objections to the minutes as presented.

Placing approved minutes on Alta ID's website:

There were no objections to posting the approved minutes and supporting documents on AID's website at www.altaid.org under the menu – GSA.

Additions to Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Interested Parties:

Visited hatted

Status of MOU: The City of Reedley, Orange Cove Irrigation District and Alta Irrigation District have adopted the MOU. The City of Orange Cove, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts, Tulare County and

Kings River Water District have it on their agendas to review. The City of Dinuba will review at the February City Council meeting and take action.

Discussion and direction :

Tricia Stever Blattler, Tulare County Farm Bureau asked if the MOU was just for public agencies. The response was the MOU was to signify interest in the process. She intends on taking the MOU to her board for review.

There will be a hearing in April, all MOU's need to be adopted by then.

Formation of Separate Sub Basin:

DWR Rules and Regulations developing boundary changes/separate sub basins: Chris Kapheim reviewed the strict guidelines in recent legislation regarding boundary changes and establishing revisions to a GSA sub-basin.

Legislation

Example of Legislative Groundwater Management Act (Fox Canyon): Identifies sub-basin boundaries and a five member board governance structure as one representative from each of the five groups (1) County (2) City (3) Water District (4) Special District and (5) Agriculture.

Power point of essential elements for a Groundwater Management Act; Chris Kapheim went over the Sub-Basin GSA Pre-planning power point addressing two administrative issues: defining the sub-basin area and governance. The boundaries for the sub-basin should be based on hydrological criteria; the proposed governance including agriculture (based on existing Fox Canyon Groundwater Program established by the legislation in 1982 to address their groundwater pumping issues).

Timeline: February 27, 2014 is the deadline to submit a legislative proposal to create a special act groundwater management agency to comply with Water Code Section 10723© to implement existing groundwater management law.

Interconnection between Rules and Regulations and Legislation:

After the power point presentation, Chris Kapheim asked the group for their thoughts.

Denise English, Tulare County asked if it would take special legislation to have Ag at the table.

Tricia Stever Blattler was also looking at the Fox Canyon model and asked if anyone was interested in talking to a Fox Canyon representative.

Doug Jensen, Attorney – commented the Fox Canyon model may work for other GSA's and become the general act as it gathers support.

Chris Kaphiem suggested, to be successful we would need Ag at the table; similar to Fox Canyon since Ag would be a substantial partner in attaining sustainability. To do so, we would need an MOU or

legislation. He said that Alta ID has shown interest in submitting legislation. He asked if there was a consensus to submit such a bill on behalf of the group.

Steven Worthy, Tulare County Supervisor –added the county also has access to a lobbyist. He also suggested as an option, of having the Governor appoint an Ag representative, similar to the Air Board appointees, but preferred local control.

A draft template for the bill was reviewed by the group. (see Attached) The bill would set the GSA area boundary and governance structure outline. It was kept simple as a placeholder.

Steven Worthy asked when the Board would be identified.

Chris Kapheim responded it would be developed further during the next 30 to 60 days.

Jack Paxton, KRWD questioned the name of the GSA: Kings River East Groundwater Management Agency. He asked if the agency ever revisited their process and about term limits.

Kapheim said Fox Canyon does file annual reports and there is always the possibility of amending special acts to reflect changes.

Doug Jensen Attorney said all positions had a two year term limit, multiple terms were possible.

Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley Manager, expressed concerns with the City of Reedley's boundaries overlapping two GSA's if the boundary was made at the river and likelihood of double assessments.

Steven Worthy said the County of Tulare will be working with three GSA's and said it made sense to have each supervisor monitor their own basin.

Nicole Zieba, stated that after agriculture, cities were the largest users and was concerned with only one vote shared between three cities.

Gary Horn Engineer, representing City of Orange Cove – asked if the other irrigation/water districts and special districts would make up the Special District group.

There was interest among the group to have a Fox Canyon board representative speak to our group.

Chris Kapheim suggested the cities come together to determine how they will have representation; they can rotate the position, these are all details that will be worked out in the details. Chris asked if anyone had any objection to Assemblyman Perea carrying the bill.

Nicole said it is a good idea.

There was no objection to having Assemblyman Perea carry the bill.

Other items for Discussion:

John Kirk, DWR suggested that DWR would most likely be resistant to allow smaller sub basins; bigger not smaller. Coming regulations will address GSA boundaries.

Chris Kapheim was willing to have those discussions with DWR.

Tricia Stever Blattler Would the intended legislation be to have it specify GSA governance? She asked if our counter-parts have considered using the county boundaries.

Chris Kaphiem suggested the boundaries be determined on a hydrological basis to be successful; DWR's Bulletin 118 has initially set the regional boundaries.

Tris Stever Blattler – was asked how Cities would fit into the GSA.

Chris Kapheim reminded everyone to focus on how we can be successful and basically advised all interested parties to look at how they can address their own individual issues. He reminded everyone that one size does not fit all; different issues call for different solutions.

Nicole Zieba asked Allen Weaver from the Fresno County for his thoughts on working with multiple GSA's

Allan Weaver, Fresno County responded that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors has assigned two directors to look at groundwater issues.

Dennis Keller, Engineer explained how Bulletin 118 was originally set up to reflect the natural aquifer, recognizing the natural boundaries of the Kings River basin with respect to the distribution of surface water and not necessarily where the alluvial fans exist.

Chris Kapheim asked if there were any other questions. He will inquire more information pertaining to Fox Canyon's governance implementations. He restated that he will be submitting the proposed bill to Assemblyman Perea today. He said the group would continue to work on the bill; the specific language is due 2/27/15. He will direct AID staff to post the approved minutes and supporting documents on the altheid.org website under the menu tab: GSA

Chris Kapheim said from a collective point of view, we want to be in position to be ready to initiate our plan as soon as we are ready to work on it. We need to initially set up our agency to be the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).

Steve Worthly compared the GSA to the Air Board that meets to fulfill a mandate; it will be the logical groups, sharing a common interest represented at the table.

Chris Kapheim reminded the group that prior to 2020, a funding mechanism will need to be set up to fund the study and implement the plan. By 2020 we should already be meeting goals; this was why we were starting early.

Next Meeting Thursday, February 26, 2015

East Kings Sub Basin Meeting - GSA

Meeting Minutes

12/11/2014, 2:00 pm, Alta Irrigation District Board Room

Attendees:

Chris Kapheim, AID GM
Norma Waldern, AID Director
Jack Brandt, AID Director
John Kalender, AID Director
Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor
Denise English, Tulare County
Tricia Blattler, Tulare County Farm Bureau
Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Allan Weaver, Fresno County and two staff members
John Kirk, DWR
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove ID
Jim Wegley, Engineer AID,
Doug Jensen, Attorney AID, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts
Lauren Layne, Attorney AID
Dr. Kenneth D. Schmidt, Geo-Hydrologist

Welcome: Chris Kapheim, AID GM welcomed everyone.

Approval of the Minutes of last meeting (10/23/14):

There were no objections to the minutes as presented.

Additions to the Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Forming a Separate Sub Basin:

Ken Schmidt presented his draft study and the basis that he used justify is conclusions. His study supported delineating an east side Kings Sub-basin based on five criteria: DWR Detailed Analysis Units, direction of groundwater flow, historical water level changes, soil types and ability to mitigate groundwater overdraft. (**See Attached Schmidt Study**).

East Side Sub-Basin Formation Group Discussion:

Chris Kapheim, Alta Irrigation District, commented that through cooperation and utilizing the individual circumstances available to each entity we can gain sustainability for our area.

Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor, mentioned his county invested heavily in searching for recharge locations and commented on Alta Irrigation District's ability to develop recharge areas. He summarized Ken Schmidt's study and agreed that we can recognize the east

side as a viable sub-basin meeting the five criteria Mr. Schmidt addressed, but also addressed being concerned with the West Kings River sub-basin's opinion of an east side sub-basin. He encouraged coordination between the different sub basins when possible.

Ken Schmidt, Hydrologist, commented that creating a new sub-basin is not unique. He is aware of various agencies considering the same; sharing the common goal of working in a manageable program.

Chris Kapheim commented on the difficulty of the IRWM with numerous parties representing a large area (978,000 acres) not sharing the same goals. He stated that coordinating meetings are being held between the proposed east and west sub-basins.

John Kirk, DWR, agreed that the east side Kings River was not the only one wanting to separate. He stressed the supporting argument for creating a new sub-basin must be done with great care as it will receive much scrutiny.

Chris Kapheim stated Bulletin 118 sub basins were not created to manage groundwater.

Doug Jensen, Attorney, commented on the small amount of white area in the proposed east side sub-basin

John Kirk recommended the group include public input and feedback as they proceed to organize.

Allan Weaver, Fresno County, stated the County is interested in what different districts/cities were planning and urged all parties to share information. He also preferred to wait until there was a definite process identified in dealing with the white areas before discussing with his board. Fresno County has not started discussing the new groundwater legislation. He commended Chris Kapheim for being out in front and hoped irrigation districts would assist the counties with the white areas

Memorandum of Understanding Group Discussion:

The MOU is necessary to show interest in working together; it is not a conclusive document.

Allan Weaver, stressed he was interested and would keep his staff involved, but would need to understand how his entire county is affected before bringing it up to the county for any type of commitment.

Chris Kapheim, reminded everyone that the process takes time. Before we can start to address the groundwater issues, we need to gather good data. Before we can gather the data, we need to raise funds to cover the costs to gather that data. Before we could gather funds, we need to develop the organizational structure of our GSA. Before we can develop the organizational structure we need to show interest in forming a GSA. Chris stressed this was an educational process and by starting early in the process, we give ourselves the opportunity to take smaller steps towards attaining sustainability.

Steve Worthley, mentioned Tulare County will be working with various GSA(s) in his county and that he was ready to go to his board for approval. He agreed with Chris in looking at the deadlines and working backwards to develop a timeline.

Allan Weaver, asked for clarification of Alta's goals. What are AID expectations.

Chris Kapheim, responded by providing a background of what AID has done internally with water measurement, recharge, water banking and drinking water projects. Taking this direction has allowed the District to move towards sustainability. Not all sub-basins have the same issues to address and different agencies have their own cultures to deal with. On the east side of the Kings River Sub-Basin, we share common interests, i.e., similar soil types, groundwater hydrology, etc. He stressed the need to have agriculture directly involved. It would take special legislation to guarantee an Ag position on the board of the GSA and to delineate the near and east of the Kings River. AID's expectations and strategy is to have the MOU approved within the next few months by interested parties so we can start working together to tackle the challenges and meet common goals including having Ag in the governance process.

Steve Worthley stated "we can't be proactive if we wait for what others are thinking. We need to start presenting our individual plans to the group."

Allan Weaver is interested in addressing any dissidence before committing.

John Kirk stated that DWR is still in the formation stage of organizing their agency to respond to the statutory deadlines.

Tricia Blattler, Tulare County Farm Bureau, informed the group that she has taken a road show approach and given her presentation to dozens of audiences, including city management as a starting point. She offered to do a presentation as a means of educating, identifying resources and rallying interested parties to engage in the process. She appreciated AID's progressiveness. Kaweah and Tule are doing the same and the process is picking up momentum.

Dean Uota, City of Dinuba Engineer, said a new city council has just been seated and will need to be educated quickly. They have a goal setting meeting in January.

Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley Director of Development, has started discussion with the city manager and plans to meet on January 11, 2015 with City Counsel to discuss the city's general plan, which includes groundwater. The City of Reedley is expected to move forward quickly. He made a request of the group: As the discussion moves forward, he wants to know the response of the west side of the river. He would like to know how the counties and municipalities all fit in. **Steve Worthley** repeated his county is ready to move forward and is well aware of different sub-basins in his county. He mentioned the need to share water in times of excess and the need for conjunctive use among districts, GSA's and sub-basins. He reinforced we are all pieces of a larger puzzle. This must be a collaborative agreement.

Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove Irrigation District General Manager, said sharing water resources for sustainability is a good idea. His district shares water with the Friant and is looking forward to integrating the entire east side to solve sustainability issues. He shared that back in

1940, Friant determined a contract allocation to each district for sustainability, which included recharge from Alta Irrigation District's canal. His board has already approved the MOU.

Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove Engineer, said his city has no wells. They depend entirely on the Friant Canal. His goal is twofold; to address flooding issues and water storage. His city needs an additional water supply. His board is ready to approve the MOU.

Norman Waldner, President Alta Irrigation District, agreed this was the best process to comply with recent legislation.

Jack Brandt, Alta Irrigation District Director, sees moving in this direction, recognizing the east sub-basin, allows us to work on common issues effectively.

Next Steps:

A meeting will be scheduled in January 2015

GENERAL CONSENSUS: The hydrological study supports an east side sub-basin, two districts have signed the MOU with others in the process of adoption. The need to stay informed, cooperate and collaborate with the west side sub-basin is important to reach our common goals.

IPF

Groundwater Legislation Impact meeting

10/23/2014, 2:00 pm, Alta Irrigation District Board Room

Attendees:

Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.

Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.

John Kalender, Alta I.D.

Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor

Denise English, Tulare County

Allan Weaver, Fresno County

Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County

Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County

Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley

Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley

Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba

Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove

Joel Nelson, California Citrus Mutual

Dennis Keller, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts

Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.

Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts

Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D.

Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District

Joey Airoso, Tulare County Farm Bureau

John Kirk, DWR

John Sanders Orange Cove I.D.

Chris Kapheim, AID GM welcomed everyone and remarked that agricultural interests and Central Valley legislators were left out of the process on the recent groundwater bill. The purpose of this meeting was to inform interested parties as to the statutory deadlines in the groundwater legislation and begin working towards solutions to meet the goals and objectives of the new groundwater legislation with a minimum of state intervention.

Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor, asked if the other districts in the Kings River Service area were aware of the creation of a separate East Kings River Groundwater Basin. The Upper Kings River Basin, (CID, FID, KRCD, AID) recently met regarding the new groundwater legislation, with the possibility of creating a separate GSA. It was the understanding of all four districts that there were different groundwater issues east of the Kings River. It was planned to continue to coordinate and cooperate as all parties move towards groundwater sustainability.

Jack Brandt, AID Director, asked if other districts would rather not deal with AID's sub-basin's water quality issues. Steven Worthley added if the state would require neighboring GSA's to address each other's issues. Kapheim responded, each GSA would be accountable for its own sustainability, lending to bifurcation of the larger basin to a smaller basin with common issues and goals to be successful.

Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley Manager, who represents a city with land in CID and AID, thanked Chris Kapheim for taking the lead and bringing the parties together.

Alan Weaver, Fresno County, commented he favored geological basins even though they crossed county lines. Representing a county, he acknowledged he didn't have the resources to deal with sustainability issues. Furthermore, the County of Fresno would like to be developing one plan for the county.

Steven Worthley recommended tying agencies together into one manageable-sub basin and expected the GSA would form a separate entity overlapping various political boundaries based on its hydrology.

Chris Kapheim mentioned two working examples for groundwater management: Fox Canyon is a groundwater management plan initiated by the legislature that includes agriculture, cities, counties and water agencies. The Orange County Water Agency uses tiered pricing to manage groundwater. He stressed the need to work collectively to determine what works best in this basin for all interested parties.

Joel Nelsen, Citrus Mutual commented this issue was out of his ball park. But he agreed that a smaller GSA would be better able to coordinate resources to minimize state involvement. He stressed to keep producers involved to adequately address landowner issues. He will be involved in defining a workable set of plans to be coordinated at the local level.

Dennis Keller, Engineer representing Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts commented that the west side of the Kings Basin was having a similar discussion regarding implementation of the groundwater legislation. Areas without surface water will have issues as will areas not wanting to their coordinate resources. Landowners and cities will be interested in maintaining their property values.

Joey Airoso, Tulare County Farm Bureau, agreed with the idea of a smaller basin as being more manageable, but at some point coordinated efforts amount neighboring GSA's would need to be addressed; including areas outside of irrigation districts and those areas with unfavorable water supplies. Cities and agriculture are connected; less water, less Ag. The existing infrastructure has become insufficient as the state has reduced agriculture's access to surface water.

Nicole Zieba recently reduced their sphere of influence and introduced tiered pricing. Their water consumption dropped 30%.

Chris Kapheim, AID voluntarily introduced water measurement and pricing. Over time demand reduced by 20% allowing it to improve its deliveries.

Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District Director stressed the need to write letters to legislators expressing local concerns.

Steve Worthley asked what kind of clean up language the legislature would consider. The possibility of creating an exemption to CEQA for the first 5 years and streamlining the

adjudication process would greatly improve the ability for GSA's to move forward with reaching objectives. As would making adjudication an alternative to the State Board.

Steve Worthley asked for clarification on high, med, low classifications. Our basin would be classified as high and put on a shorter timeline for compliance.

Doug Jensen, attorney for AID, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts briefly explained the benefits of creating a special district for the GSA.

Alan Weaver, suggested extending invitations to neighboring districts, agencies to facilitate the exchange of ideas among neighboring GSA's.

John Kirk, DWR commented that all GSA's will eventually need to work together with surrounding GSA's.

GENERAL CONSENSUS: The group plans to meet regularly to bring ideas and address concerns with the intent of initially establishing a MOU among interested parties to effectively meet the goals and objectives of the new groundwater legislation with minimum state intervention. It was recommended to individuals to report back to their individual boards for authority and support to move forward. Thursdays at 2:00 is a good date and time for subsequent meetings.