South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Regular Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. 429 C Street, Lemoore, CA 93245

Chair Neves

Members Present:

Others Present:

Members Absent:

Joe Neves, County of Kings (Chair)

Scott Mercer, Stratford Public Utility District

Ceil Howe, Jr., Empire West Side Irrigation District (Vice Chair; 5:34

p.m.)

Frank Gornick, City of Lemoore

Paul Stiglich, General Manager

Michael Newton, Stratford Irrigation District

Karen Ormsby

Presenter:

Corey McLaughlin, Kings River Conservation District Frank Coelho

Amer Hussain, Geosyntec (Technical Consultant)

Savannah Tjaden, MLJ Environmental

Kenneth Richardson (Legal Counsel)

Antonio Solorio

Item 1: <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m., and the Roll was called to establish a quorum.

Roll Call:

Director Neves: Present Director Gornick: Present Director Howe: Present Director Newton: Present Director Mercer: Absent

Item 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Presenter: Chair Neves

Item 3: ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA Presenter: Chair Neves

Discussion:

None.

Actions:

None.

Item 4: PUBLIC COMMENT Presenter: Chair Neves

Discussion:

Savannah Tjaden, from MLJ Environmental, introduced herself as the Product Lead for the Well Registration portal that will be used by SFKGSA.

Actions:

None.

Item 5: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES Presenter: Chair Neves

Discussion:

None.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Howe, seconded by Director Newton, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, and the January 26 and February 10, 2023 Special Meetings' Minutes.

Roll Call:

Director Neves: Aye Director Gornick: Aye Director Howe: Aye Director Newton: Aye Director Mercer: Absent

 Item 6:
 DIRECTOR REPORTS

 Presenter:
 Chair Neves

Discussion:

Director Gornick noted that he wished more water was in the South Fork river channel. Director Howe shared some information as to why there was not.

Actions:

None.

Item 7: GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT Presenter: Paul Stiglich

Discussion:

The General Manager, Paul Stiglich, reported on previous and upcoming activities, meetings, correspondences, legislation, projects, the progress on setting up his office, termination of services by Kings River Conservation District, and items of relevance to the GSA's operation. Comments and questions from Directors were addressed.

Actions:

None.

Item 8: SGMA IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE Presenter: Amer Hussain

Discussion:

Amer Hussain reported to the Board regarding the status of, and progress on, GSP implementation – and related matters – in both the Tulare Lake Subbasin and the SFKGSA in particular. Multiple items were noted related to the Annual Report, groundwater model updates, multiple grant updates, the designation of the GSP as Inadequate, Governor Newsom's Executive Order related to use of floodwater for recharge, and the potential Proposition 218 election. Comments and questions from the Public and Directors were addressed.

Actions:

None.

Item 9: <u>GEOSYNTEC – APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS</u> **Presenter:** Amer Hussain

Discussion:

Amer Hussain presented to the Board regarding the Geosyntec request for payment of additional funds for Tulare Lake Subbasin-related work, totaling \$34,000.00. Of the total amount, SFKGSA will remain responsible for its previously agreed percentage.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Howe, seconded by Director Newton, and unanimously carried by Roll Call Vote meeting the 4/5 majority requirement, to authorize payment of an additional \$34,000.00 for additional Tulare Lake Subbasin-related work, of which the SFKGSA will remain responsible for its previously agreed percentage.

Roll Call:

Director Neves: Aye
Director Gornick: Aye
Director Howe: Aye
Director Newton: Aye
Director Mercer: Absent

Item 10: <u>APPROVAL OF SFKGSA INSURANCE COVERAGE</u> **Presenter:** Paul Stiglich

Discussion:

General Manager Paul Stiglich presented information to the Board related to proposed insurance coverages for the GSA.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Gornick, seconded by Director Newton, and unanimously carried by Roll Call vote to authorize the General Manager to sign a contract for insurance coverages for the GSA, in the amount of \$4,586.00/year.

Roll Call:

Director Neves: Aye
Director Gornick: Aye
Director Howe: Aye
Director Newton: Aye
Director Mercer: Absent

Item 11: RESOLUTION 23-01: AUTHORIZING STAFF PARTICIPATION Presenter: Paul Stiglich

IN CA SDI PROGRAM

Discussion:

General Manager Paul Stiglich presented information to the Board regarding the need for Resolution 23-01: Authorizing Staff Participation in CA SDI on a voluntary/self-paid basis.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Gornick, seconded by Director Howe, and unanimously carried by Roll Call vote to adopt Resolution 23-01: Authorizing Staff Participation in CA SDI.

Roll Call:

Director Neves: Aye
Director Gornick: Aye
Director Howe: Aye
Director Newton: Aye
Director Mercer: Absent

Item 12: APPROVAL OF GENERAL MANAGER'S EXPENSE REPORT Presenter: Paul Stiglich

Discussion:

General Manager Paul Stiglich presented his request for approval of his Expense Report and authorization of repayment of the same.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Howe, seconded by Director Gornick, and unanimously carried by Roll Call vote to approve the General Manager's Expense Report and authorize repayment in the amount of \$36.00.

Roll Call:

Director Neves: Aye
Director Gornick: Aye
Director Howe: Aye
Director Newton: Aye
Director Mercer: Absent

Item 13: <u>AUTHORIZE GENERAL MANAGER TO PROCEED WITH</u> **Presenter:**

resenter: Chair Neves

PROPOSITION 218 PROCESS

Discussion:

This Item was switched with Item 14 for consideration. The General Manager Paul Stiglich asked the Board for authorization to proceed with the Proposition 218 process.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Gornick, seconded by Director Howe, and unanimously carried by Roll Call vote to authorize the General Manager to proceed with the Proposition 218 process.

Roll Call:

Director Neves: Aye
Director Gornick: Aye
Director Howe: Aye
Director Newton: Aye
Director Mercer: Absent

Item 14: APPROVAL OF PROPOSED FIVE (5) YEAR BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2023-2024 THRU 2027-2028

Presenter: Paul Stiglich and Amer

Hussain

Discussion:

This Item was switched with Item 13 for consideration. The General Manager Paul Stiglich and the Geosyntec Consulting representative Amer Hussain presented information to the Board regarding the proposed five (5) year budget for Fiscal Years 2023 – 2024 through 2027 – 2028, which will be used in the Engineer's Report for the Proposition 218 election.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Howe, seconded by Director Newton, and unanimously carried by Roll Call vote meeting the 4/5 majority requirement to approve the proposed Five (5) Year budget for Fiscal Years 2023 – 2024 through 2027 – 2028, which will be used in the Engineer's Report for the Proposition 218 election.

Roll Call:

Director Neves: Aye Director Gornick: Aye Director Howe: Aye Director Newton: Aye Director Mercer: Absent

Item 15: DISCUSSION OF ONLINE MEETING ACCESS FOR PUBLIC Presenter: Chair Neves and Paul

Stiglich

Discussion:

General Manager Paul Stiglich, presented information to the Board related to options for allowing the public to remotely participate in meetings, the considerations for each option, and his recommendation based on those

None.			
Item 16:	NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS	Presenter:	Chair Neves
Discussion:			
The nex	xt regular meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2023 a	at 5:30 p.m. at 429 C Stree	et, Lemoore, CA 93245.
Actions:			
None.			
Item 17:	ADJOURNMENT	Adjourned:	7:14 p.m.
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	Respectfull	y submitted,	
		E	Board Secretary
	approved on		
Joe Neves,	Board Chair		

considerations. The sense of the Board is that they are open to allowing the public to view meetings remotely by whatever means the General Manager finds it most convenient to use, but that opportunities to address the

Board or ask questions would be limited to in-person attendance or via early submittal of written

comments/questions.

Actions: