# South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Special Board Meeting Minutes

December 21, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. 429 C Street, Lemoore, CA 93245

Members Present: Members Absent:

Joe Neves, County of Kings (Chair)

Ceil Howe Empire West Irrigation District (Vice Chair)

Frank Gornick, City of Lemoore (Secretary)

Tony Azevedo, Alt. for Stratford Irrigation

Scott Mercer, Stratford Public Utility District Michael Newton, Stratford Irrigation District

**Others Present:** 

Paul Stiglich, General Manager

Ken Richardson General Council

Amer Hussain Engineer (as private person)

Item 1: CALL TO ORDER Presenter: Chair Neves

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM, and the Roll was called to establish a quorum.

Roll Call: Director Neves: Present

Director Howe: Present Director Gornick: Present

Alt. Director Azevedo Absent, Director Azevedo arrived after the roll call.

Director Newton: Absent Director Mercer: Absent

A Super Quorum is present.

Item 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Presenter: Chair Neves

Item 3: <u>ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA</u> **Presenter:** Chair Neves

**Discussion**:

None.

Actions:

None.

Item 4: PUBLIC COMMENT Presenter: Chair Neves

<u>Discussion</u>: None. <u>Actions</u>: None.

# <u>Item 5:</u> <u>CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES</u> **Presenter:** Chair Neves

FOR NOVEMBER 30, 2023.

Discussion: None

<u>Actions</u>: It was moved by Vice Chair Howe, seconded by Secretary Gornick, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2023, Special Board Meetings.

Ayes: Chair Neves, Vice Chair Howe, Secretary Gornick, Alt. Director Azevedo, and ; Noes: None; Abstentions; None; Absent: Director Mercer, and Director Newton.)

Item 6: <u>DIRECTOR REPORTS</u> Presenter: Chair Neves

<u>Discussion</u>: None Actions: None.

Item 7: FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FROM DECEMBET 18, 2023 Presenter: Chair Neves

<u>Discussion</u>: Vice Chair Howe stated that the Committee reviewed the General Manager's draft budgets and

recommends that the full Board consider pursuing a new Proposition 218 campaign based on a \$9.80 per parcel assessment. Additionally, GM Stiglich noted that the Committee considered excluding those parcels of 5 acres or less to reduce some mailing cost, however the net cost of doing so would still be a

revenue loss of about \$6,000.

Actions: None.

Item 8: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2023-01 Presenter: GM Stiglich

<u>Discussion</u> GM Stiglich suggested that this item be Tabled until the State approves an amended GSP.

Vice Chair Howe suggested that this item be Tabled until after the State has their Probation Hearing

On April 16, 2024.

Actions: At this time the Chair agreed to Table this item to a later date.

#### Item 9: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEARS BUDGET(S) 24/28 Presenter: GM Stiglich

<u>Discussion:</u> The Board discussed the proposed 5-year budget and had some questions regarding a Revenue Anticipation Note for \$425,000. GM Stiglich stated that the SFKGSA has depleted all reserves and needed working capital to augment funds from a successful Proposition 218 campaign once it passed. And starting a new fiscal year for 2024/2025 the County would be collecting funds for the SFKGSA, but the Agency would not see any revenue for about 8 months and therefore this loan would be needed to keep the Agency solvent.

<u>Actions</u>: It was moved by Vice Chair Howe, seconded by Alt. Director Azevedo, and unanimously carried to approve the five-year budget.

Ayes: Chair Neves, Vice Chair Howe, Secretary Gornick, Alt. Director Azevedo, and; Noes: None; Abstentions; None; Absent: Director Mercer, and Director Newton.)

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Item 10:General Manager's ReportPresenterGM Stiglich

Discussion GM Stiglich reported that the current balance in the Chase Checking Account is \$156,669.16.

Additionally, GM Stiglich shared a letter that he sent to the State regarding the DWR Probation Letter from October 2023. The GM's letter is on file in the SGMA database along with 34 letters from others

that commented on DWR's October's letter.

Actions: None

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## Item 11:Geosyntec ReportPresenterEngineer Amer

Discussion

Engineer Amer gave a brief report on the TLSB activities and confirmed that the April 16, 2024 Probation Hearing at the SWRCB is still scheduled.

Additionally, Engineer Amer requested an amendment to his original contract for the amount not to exceed \$35,000 to cover extra expenses resulting from amending the GSP to comply with DWR's October 2023 letter recommending Probation for the TLSB.

Actions: It was moved by Vice Chair Howe, seconded by Secretary Gornick, and unanimously carried to approve the Engineer's contract for the remainder of the current fiscal year and not to exceed \$35,000.

Ayes: Chair Neves, Vice Chair Howe, Secretary Gornick, Alt. Director Azevedo, and; Noes: None; Abstentions; None; Absent: Director Mercer, and Director Newton.)

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### Item 12:L + T Municipal Consultant's ReportPrese

Presenter GM Stiglich

Consider approval of consultant's contract to administer a Proposition 218 Campaign.

Phase I Prop. 218 Balloting, not to exceed \$19,120, and

Phase II Assessment Billing, not to exceed \$16,130.

Discussion There was some discussion to exclude 5 acres or less in the property assessment. The General Council spoke to the Board and advised against this exclusion. The City of Lemoore's General Manager previously spoke to the Board (during the Finance Committee's report) and cautioned that he would have to clear this exclusion with his General Council as this issue would alter past practice for payment.

Action After considerable discussion on how to make this campaign successful the motion to approve Phase I and Phase II of the contract was made by Secretary Gornick and seconded by Alt. Director Azevedo not to exceed \$35,250.

Ayes: Chair Neves, Vice Chair Howe, Secretary Gornick, Alt. Director Azevedo, and; Noes: None; Abstentions; None; Absent: Director Mercer, and Director Newton.)

Item 13:Closed SessionPresenterChair Neves

The Board will adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1): Public Employee evaluation regarding unrepresented employee (Government Code Section 54957.6).

Unrepresented Employee: General Manager.

Discussion: the Board Adjourned to Closed Session at 4:30 PM

Action: None

Item 12: Next Meeting Date and Time Presenter Chair Neves

Discussion: Schedule next meeting.

Actions: The next Regular Meeting of the SFKGSA Board is scheduled for January 18, 2024, at 5:30 PM.

Item 14ADJOURNMENTPresenter:Chair Neves

Discussion: None

Actions: Adjourned at 5:25 PM