South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Regular Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. 429 C Street, Lemoore, CA 93245

Members 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)

Frank Gornick, City of Lemoore

Michael Newton, Stratford Irrigation District

Others Present:

Amer Hussain, Geosyntec (Technical Consultant)

Johnny Gailey (Administrative Consultant)

Frank Coelho

Antonio Solorio

Corey McLaughlin, Kings River Conservation District Julie Freitas

Joseph Fernandez Doug Freitas

Jay Weiner Steve Jackson

Gary Quintel

Item 1: CALL TO ORDER Presenter: Chair Neves

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 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:

Steve Jackson asked about counsel report on TRO. Will provide update at next meeting. Doug Freitas asked about the well registration policy mirroring the State requirements as discussed at the grower meeting.

Actions:

None.

Item 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES Presenter: Chair Neves

Discussion:

Minutes were presented for SFKGSA Board Meetings held since January 1, 2024

Actions:

It was moved by Ceil Howe and seconded by Frank Gornick to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2024 Special Board Meeting, February 29, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, April 10, 2024 Special Board Meeting, May 16 Regular Board Meeting, May 24, 2024 Special Board Meeting, and the June 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

(Ayes: Directors Neves, Howe, Gornick, and Newton; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Mercer)

Item 6: APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS Presenter: Chair Neves

Discussion:

The Board asked to appoint the officers for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Actions:

It was moved by Ceil Howe and seconded by Frank Gornick to appoint the same slate of officers:

Chair - Joe Neves

Vice-Chair - Ceil Howe

Secretary – Frank Gornick

(Ayes: Directors Neves, Howe, Gornick, and Newton; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Mercer)

Item 7: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2024-05 APPOINTMENT OF Presenter: Johnny Gailey

AUDITOR / AUTHORIZATION OF SIGNATURE OF

ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Discussion:

Administrative consultant Johnny Gailey presented the Engagement Letter from Cuttone and Mastro for the Audit for FY 2023-2024

Actions:

It was moved by Michael Newton and seconded by Ceil Howe to adopt Resolution 2024-05 and Authorize administrative consultant Johnny Gailey to sign the Engagement Letter for Cuttone and Mastro to provide audit services for FY 2023-2024.

(Ayes: Directors Neves, Howe, Gornick, and Newton; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Mercer)

Item 8: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2024-06: APPOINTMENT OF Presenter: Chair Neves TREASURER

Discussion:

The board discussed appointing the treasurer. Without the benefit of advice from Attorney Ken Richarson the item was tabled until the August 15th Board meeting.

Actions:

None.

Item 9: DIRECTOR REPORTS

Presenter: Directors

Discussion:

Michael Newton thanked Johnny for attending the Stratford ID meeting. Frank Gornick announced the hire of a new city manager for Lemoore. Joe Neves reported that Highway 41 would reopen August 1st. Joe also reported that there will be a special board meeting for Mid Kings River GSA July 29th. Ceil Howe reported that Johnny attended the Empire West Side board meeting.

Actions:

None

Item 10: REPORT OF GROWER ADVISORY COMMITEE Presenter: Frank Coelho

Discussion:

Met on June 27th - Introduced Johnny Gailey as the new manager. The Grower committee is continuing to pursue a path to add 2 board seats to the SFKGSA board to achieve better grower representation. Will discuss well metering requirements in proposed policy at the next grower advisory meeting.

Actions:

None

Item 11: ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT REPORT Presenter: Johnny Gailey

Discussion:

The Draft Well Registration policy and the Well Mitigation Policy are posted on the web site and have been distributed via email for public comment. Johnny reported on his smooth onboarding process with KRCD. He reported that there was still \$25,762.41 outstanding from the prop 218 invoicing. There was discussion on what the reporting requirements will be for growers with current TRO in place from the Kings County Farm Bureau lawsuit. Reported on meeting with the State Waer Board staff. Reported on free well testing available through the Excelsior Kings Resource Conservation District. Discussion about pursuing grant money for meters.

Actions:

None

Item 12: GEOSYNTEC REPORT Presenter: Amer Hussain

Discussion:

Consultant Amer Hussain presented to the Board on the draft well registration policy and reminded that we would also take in person comments at the grower advisory committee. The goal is to have this policy incorporated into the updated GSP by October. The State Board reported that comments would not be ready for another 3-4 weeks on the previously submitted draft GSP. There was a question about a draft recharge policy and Amer reported that he would have that for next months meeting.

Actions:

None

Item 13: NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS Presenter: Chair Neves

Discussion:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2024 at 429 C Street, Lemoore, CA 93245

Actions:

None

Item 14:ADJOURNMENTAdjourned:6:21 p.m.