

South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
429 C Street, Lemoore, CA 93245

Members Present:

Ceil Howe, Jr., Empire West Side Irrigation District (Vice Chair)
Doug Verboon – County of Kings (alternate)
Frank Gornick – City of Lemoore
Michael Newton, Stratford Irrigation District

Members Absent

Scott Mercer, Stratford Public Utility District

Others Present:

Amer Hussain, Geosyntec (Technical Consultant)
Johnny Gailey (Administrative Consultant)
Ken Richardson (Legal Counsel)
Gary Quintel

Joseph Fernandes
Edward Silva
Monserat Solis (SJV Water)
Jay Weiner

Item 1: CALL TO ORDER **Presenter:** Vice Chair Howe

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m., and the Roll was called to establish a quorum.

Roll Call:

Director Verboon: Present
Director Gornick: Present – Arrived at 5:38 PM
Director Howe: Present
Director Newton: Present
Director Mercer: Absent

Item 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE **Presenter:** Vice Chair Howe

Item 3: ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA **Presenter:** Vice Chair Howe

Discussion:

None.

Actions:

None.

Item 4: PUBLIC COMMENT **Presenter:** Vice Chair Howe

Discussion:

None.

Actions:

None.

Item 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES **Presenter:** Vice Chair Howe

Discussion:

Minutes were presented for SFKGSA Special Board Meeting held on November 21, 2024

Actions:

It was moved by Director Newton and seconded by Director Verboon to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

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

Item 6: DIRECTOR REPORTS

Presenter: Directors

Discussion:

Director Howe commented that it is disappointing that the State Board Staff has cut off communications with the GSA

Actions: None

Item 7: ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT REPORT

Presenter: Johnny Gailey

Discussion: Tulare Lake update: Johnny Gailey reported that we still have not seen any movement on a coordination agreement. The Farm Bureau Lawsuit has been appealed by the State Water Board and the Appeals Court has agreed to hear the appeal. No information on timeline.

SFKGSA policy development update: Johnny reported a productive Grower committee meeting with robust discussion on the draft Recharge Policy. Discussion followed with input from Director Verboon regarding leave behinds on recharge.

Form 700 filing requirements: Form 700 will be due April 30th 2025 and will be required to file electronically this year.

Special District Financial Transaction Report will be due January 31, 2025 Johnny reported that Cuttone & Maestro will be completing this report as they already are familiar with our financials and are doing the same for North Fork Kings GSA

Actions:

None

Item 8: GEOSYNTEC REPORT

Presenter: Amer Hussain

Discussion: Geosyntec Consultant Amer Hussain presented on progress with the GSP Significant progress has been made on the section on Projects and Management Actions. We are continuing to work with the Grower Committee on Allocations and Management Triggers. A draft Allocation policy will be presented to the Grower Committee in January for discussion and input. The new Groundwater Model does not differentiate between the A and B zones and therefore will likely not be used in setting allocations. Amer described the management plan as having triggers that when reached they would supersede the allocation and require reduced pumping in the zone where the triggers are reached. The subsidence management plan has a maximum allowable subsidence number of 6 ft since 2023. Triggers will need to be set that restrict pumping from the C zone far before the maximum is reached. Director Doug Verboon commented that growers not contributing to the problem should not be restricted. A slide was presented showing subsidence from 2015 thru 2023 along with proposed Management Zones. Amer next reported on progress collecting water level data, surface water delivery data, and groundwater quality sampling for the Tulare Lake subbasin annual report due April 1, 2025.

Actions:

None.

Item 9: NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS **Presenter:** Vice Chair Howe

Discussion:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2025 5:30 PM at 429 C Street, Lemoore, CA 93245

Actions:

None.

Item 10: ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: 6:43 p.m.