

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
WESTSIDE DISTRICT WATER AUTHORITY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Held January 23, 2024

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of Westside District Water Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WDWA GSA or Agency) was held on January 23, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. in person at the Belridge Water Storage District office located at 21908 7<sup>th</sup> Standard Road, McKittrick, CA 93251.

CALL TO ORDER )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

Chairman Goff called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

The following directors were present: Rob Goff, Jeremy Blackwell, Leon Elwell, Bernard Pugét, and Rod Stiefvater.

The following director was absent: Rob Yraceburu.

Also present were: Mark Gilkey, Justin Rowe, Alex Dominguez, Morgan Campbell, Brad Kroeker, Ted Page, and Jamie Marquez.

Also attended by video conference and/or teleconference: Abbigale Seal and Brianda Rodriguez.

CHANGES TO AGENDA )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

There were no requests to revise the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

The Chairman asked if there were any questions concerning the Consent Agenda, which items were detailed with staff reports in the Board packet. On motion of Rod Steifvater, seconded by Jeremy Blackwell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved each item listed on the Consent Agenda on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Rob Goff  
Jeremy Blackwell  
Leon Elwell  
Bernard Pugét

Rod Stiefvater

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rob Yraceburu

WDWA GSA Operations )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**Executive Order N-7-22 Well Permit Request Process:** Morgan Campbell reported that WDWA GSA received two well permit applications. Executive Order N-7-22 requires GSAs to approve new well drilling permits to ensure the new well will not harm the GSA’s ability to manage groundwater sustainably. After discussion, on motion of Jeremy Blackwell, and seconded by Rod Steifvater, the Board authorized WDWA GSA staff to process and approve routine well permit applications that are consistent with any adopted management actions or projects adopted by WDWA GSA. The motion was unanimously carried, on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Rob Goff  
Jeremy Blackwell  
Leon Elwell  
Bernard Pugét  
Rod Stiefvater

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rob Yraceburu

**GEI Data Management System Grant Budget Overrun Payment** Morgan Campbell reported that GEI Consultants requested all Kern County Subbasin GSAs cost-share paying a \$140,398.00 budget overrun to develop the Kern County Subbasin SGMA Data Management System (DMS). GEI wrote off 50% of the budget overrun (\$71,977.50) with \$71,977.50 remaining for the 22 GSA entities in the Subbasin to equally split. After discussion, on motion of Rod Stiefvater, seconded by Bernard Pugét, and unanimously carried, the Board authorized a one-time payment of \$3,281.70 from WDWA GSA to GEI to cover the cost of the DMS budget overrun on the following roll call vote:

YES: Rob Goff  
Jeremy Blackwell  
Leon Elwell  
Bernard Pugét  
Rod Stiefvater

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rob Yraceburu

**SGMA Probationary Process Update:** Morgan Campbell reported that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) provided a SGMA staff update on December 19, 2023. During this meeting, SWRCB staff reported that SWRCB will fully consider any new Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) submitted to the SWRCB, if provided with sufficient time in advance of a Subbasin's scheduled probationary hearing. SWRCB staff announced an updated hearing schedule that postponed Kern County Subbasin's SGMA probationary hearing date to January 2025. No Board action was taken.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NON AGENDIZED ITEMS )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

No public participation occurred.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

The Chairman directed that the Board move into closed session to discuss anticipated litigation. Legal counsel advised the Board that it has authority to hold a closed session under Government Code sections 54956.9(d)(2), and 54956.9(d)(4). All persons other than the Directors, Mark Gilkey, Justin Rowe, Alex Dominguez, Morgan Campbell, Jamie Marquez, Brianda Rodriguez, Abbigale Seal, and Brad Kroeker retired from the meeting.

Following the closed session, the meeting was again open to the public. Legal counsel advised that no reportable action was taken in the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rod Stiefvater  
Secretary of the Board of Directors

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Goff  
Chairman