

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

March 16, 2023
6:00 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER / CHAIRS WELCOME

West Turlock Subbasin (WTS) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Chair Alamo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced the following:

Members of the Board are participating in tonight's meeting in-person from the TID Board Room located at 333 E. Canal Drive, Turlock. Members of the public may participate in-person, utilize the Zoom's webinar feature, or by telephone.

Members of the public attending virtually will have the opportunity to provide public comment via the webinar or phone features. For those participating via Zoom, please click the "Raise Hand" button on your screen. For those participating via phone, please dial "Star 9" on your keypad. Once your name or other identifying information is called by the Board Secretary, your line will be unmuted and the public comment period will begin.

B. FLAG SALUTE

C. ROLL CALL – WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GSA

PRESENT: Alternate Director Cassandra Abram (Turlock), Director Miguel Alvarez (Modesto), Alternate Director James Casey (Ceres), Director Randy Crooker (Hughson), Director Rodrigo Espinosa (Merced County), Alternate Director Richard Lindo (Denair CSD), Director Leandro Maldonado (Delhi CWD), and Chair Joe Alamo (Turlock ID)

ABSENT: Director Vito Chiesa (Stanislaus County) and Vice Chair Curtis Jorritsma (Hilmar CWD)

D. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

E. STAFF UPDATES

1. Budget Update

WTS GSA Treasurer Michael Clipper provided a financial update for the WTS GSA account and basin-wide account for the month ending February 2023.

2. Technical Advisory Committee Update

WTS GSA TAC Chair Michael Cooke provided an update regarding well permit applications – 15 received since the meeting in November 2022 (Stanislaus and Merced Counties) with a total of 71 received to date. All were recommended for approval as they would not adversely impact implementation of the GSP. WTS GSA Chair Cooke also provided information regarding a letter of support provided to the City of Modesto for a drought relief grant, continued work on the PEIR, and the recently

established ad hoc committees to work on the Annual Report and the Minimum Threshold Exceedance Action Plan.

Chair Alamo and WTS GSA TAC Chair Cooke discussed the type of well permit applications, clarifying that most are replacement wells or back-up irrigation wells.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR – ACTION BY THE WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GSA:

Motion by Director Espinosa, seconded by Alternate Director Abram, adopting the consent calendar as submitted. All voted in favor with none opposed. Chair Alamo declared the motion carried.

1. ***Motion:*** Approving Minutes of the February 9, 2023 Regular Meeting of the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

G. AGENDA ITEMS:

1. ROUND 2 MULTIBENEFIT LAND REPURPOSING PROGRAM GRANT

Turlock Subbasin Plan Manager Debbie Montalbano provided an overview of this item and introduced ETS GSA Coordinator Mike Tietze who presented information regarding the East Turlock Subbasin GSA grant application for the Department of Conservation Round 2 Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program including grant components and eligibility, program goals, priorities, and requirements, grant deliverables, and example project types. Mr. Tietze also spoke regarding the request for a letter of commitment from the WTS GSA describing interest/proposed involvement and commitment to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) if the grant is awarded, and noted funding would be available for support involvement/activities.

Ms. Montalbano spoke about not having brought this forward to the WTS GSA TAC due to timing of the request; however, WTS GSA TAC Chair Cooke clarified this is something the TAC would support as it is consistent with the GSP.

There were no public comments.

Action by the West Turlock Subbasin GSA:

Motion by Director Espinosa, seconded by Director Maldonado, Authorizing the WTS GSA Chair, or designee, to sign a letter of support/commitment from the West Turlock Subbasin GSA to the California Department of Conservation for the East Turlock Subbasin GSA grant application for the Round 2 Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program. All voted in favor with none opposed. Chair Alamo declared the motion carried.

2. CONSOLIDATED FINAL PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR)

WTS GSA TAC Chair Michael Cooke introduced Environmental Science Associates Kelley Sterle who presented information regarding the Consolidated Final PEIR for GSP implementation including an overview of the CEQA requirements, PEIR development timeline, contents, and scope, environmental analysis, summary of public comments received, next steps of the CEQA process including certification of the Consolidated Final PEIR (by WTS GSA as the lead agency and ETS GSA as the responsible agency), record of proceeding, and an upcoming workshop at the TAC

level focused on implementation of projects and management actions to streamline the CEQA process.

There were no public comments.

Action by the West Turlock Subbasin GSA:

Resolution No. 2023-01: Moved by Director Maldonado, seconded by Alternate Director Lindo, adopting Environmental Findings with regard to the Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Program Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 2022010100) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act; Adopting the Findings of Fact, a Statement of Overriding Considerations, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Upon roll call, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Alternate Director Abram, Director Alvarez, Alternate Director Casey, Director Crooker, Director Espinosa, Alternate Director Lindo, Director Maldonado, and Chair Alamo
Noes: None
Absent: Director Chiesa and Vice Chair Jorritsma

Chair Alamo declared the resolution adopted.

H. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARDS:

No comments.

I. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Chair Alamo announced that the meeting will be adjourned to closed session.

Motion by Director Espinosa, seconded by Director Maldonado, adjourning the regular meeting to closed session. All voted in favor with none opposed. Chair Alamo declared the motion carried.

1. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)

Potential Case(s): 1

(Valerie Kincaid, WTS GSA General Counsel)

J. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Chair Alamo announced there were no items to report.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Alamo adjourned the Special Meeting of the West Turlock Subbasin GSA at 6:36 p.m.



Jennifer Land, Secretary
West Turlock Subbasin
Groundwater Sustainability Agency