

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

Turlock Irrigation District Office
Board Room 105
333 E. Canal Drive, Turlock, CA

6:00 p.m.
June 7, 2018

A. CALL TO ORDER

GSA Chair Joe Alamo called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Directors Alamo (TID), Alvarez (Modesto), Jorritsma (Hilmar), Odom (Denair CSD), Esquer (Turlock), Vierra (Ceres), Worsham (Delhi CSD) and Young (Hughson)

ABSENT: Director Chiesa (Stanislaus County) and Espinoza (Merced County)

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: *Motion* by Director Jorritsma seconded by Director Vierra that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 1, 2018 be approved as submitted. All voted in favor with none opposed. Directors Chiesa and Espinoza were absent. The Chair declared the motion carried.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public.

E. STAFF UPDATES

- **New Appointments to the Board:** Lacey Kiriakou, TAC Vice Chair, reported that the City of Turlock had appointed Councilmember Gil Esquer as primary member, and Councilmember DeHart as the alternate member, of the West Turlock Subbasin GSA Board.
- **Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Award:** Debbie Liebersbach, TAC Member, reported on the \$1,000,000 Prop 1 grant award, and provided information on the grant process going forward.
- **Current and Pending Public Outreach Efforts:** Herb Smart, TAC Member, reported that the Ad Hoc Communications Committee has been working hard, and that there are 250 stakeholders on the GSA interested parties list. He reported on a recent public workshop that was held that reflected lots of interest in Groundwater Sustainability Plan process including how much it will cost and how it will be funded. Mr. Smart noted that the GSA web page, turlockgroundwater.org, provides videos and materials from the workshop, and that the next workshop is scheduled for June 20. TAC members have been encouraged to attend the workshops.

- **Budget Update:** Michael Clipper, Treasurer of the WTS GSA, gave an overview of expenditures and revenues for the GSA, and provided information about the fund balances in the GSA accounts.
- **Interbasin Coordination Update:** Lacey Kiriakou, Vice Chair of the TAC, reported that staff has met with the Merced Subbasin GSAs to initiate dialog between the basins, and that discussion included GSA timelines between basins. The next meeting is scheduled for June 19. The Delta Mendota Subbasin has organized a multi-GSA coordinating conference call scheduled for June 8 to discuss the status of Central Valley GSPs, agreements between basins, identifying data needs, subsidence and updates to the schedule. At this time there have been no meetings with the Modesto subbasins.
- **Joint TAC Update:** Lacey Kiriakou, Vice Chair of the TAC, reported that the West and East Turlock TACs are continuing to meet monthly and are now a fully functioning joint TAC. Staff has been working with consultant Todd Groundwater, but the work has been slower due to a Department of Water Resources delay with the models. Adjustments to the GSP timeline have been made to meet deadlines. The Joint TAC is also looking in to accepting responsibility of wells along the Merced River, but there has not been a quorum of West Turlock TAC members in attendance at the last two meetings so no action could be taken.

F. AGENDA ITEMS

1. APPOINTMENT OF A VICE CHAIR

Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel to the WTS GSA, reported that with the departure of Mr. Soiseth there is a need to appoint a new Vice Chair. Director Jorritsma volunteered to serve as Vice Chair.

ACTION: *Motion* by Director Esquer, second by Director Vierra, to appoint Director Jorritsma the Vice Chair of the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency pursuant to Section 8.1.4 of the Joint Powers Agreement. The Chair called for a roll call vote.

Ayes:	Directors Alvarez, Jorritsma, Esquer, Vierra, Young, Odom, Worsham and Alamo
Noes:	None
Absent:	Directors Chiesa and Espinoza

The Chair declared the motion carried.

2. UPDATES TO JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT EXHIBIT D

Lacey Kiriakou, TAC Vice Chair, advised that Exhibit D reflects the proportional funding of the general operating budget, which is funded by contributions of member agencies. Associate members do not fund the general operating budget. The original formula for determining proportional funding is according to acreage, production of groundwater and an urban multiplier. Several changes have been made in the last year to necessitate changes to Exhibit D. These changes include minor boundary changes along the rivers made by the Dept. of Water Resources, associate member acreages being realigned to reflect their withdrawal, and minor

updates to reflect accurate agency acreage, resulting in minor changes to all of the funding percentages.

Director Young asked for clarification on the use of an urban multiplier.

Ms. Kiriakou responded that an urban multiplier was used to provide higher value to the cities who use groundwater for drinking water.

There was discussion about the use of wells within city limits, whether the water was for drinking or irrigation purposes, and if percentages would change if a well was taken out of service.

Legal Counsel Valerie Kincaid, advised that the percentages are based on acreage and would not change if a well was out.

ACTION: ***Motion*** by Director Vierra, seconded by Director Jorritsma, to approve the updated JPA Exhibit D to reflect the amended acreage and production values to reflect the current data, including modifications resulting from DWR's boundary revision and the reassignment of associate member agencies acreage. All voted in favor with none opposed. Directors Chiesa and Espinoza were absent. The Chair declared the motion carried.

3. ADOPTION OF THE 2018-2019 BUDGET

Michael Clipper, Treasurer, reported on the annual dues paid by each member agency, and the estimated administrative costs. There is currently \$4,000 in reserve based on income versus expenses. He reviewed the budget for the Turlock Basin and said that he provided this information to the TAC and received no negative feedback.

ACTION: ***Resolution 2018-*** Approving the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency 2018-2019 Operating Budget. Moved by Director Vierra, seconded by Director Young, that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Upon roll call, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Jorritsma, Esquer, Odom , Vierra, Worsham, Young and Alamo

Noes: None

Absent: Directors Chiesa and Espinoza

The Chair declared the resolution adopted.

4. POLICY FOR COMMENTING ON CEQA DOCUMENTS OR OTHER

PROCESSES Debbie Liebersbach, TAC member, advised that as a formal agency the Turlock Subbasin GSA will be asked to provide comments on projects that could impact the Turlock groundwater basin. Very basic comment letters, which would help to establish the GSA's roll and responsibility, could be provided until the GSP is adopted. Once the GSP is adopted, more specific comments would be provided. Although no project is waiting to be reviewed, staff is asking for Board approval to comment on future projects that may impact our resources.

Board Chair Alamo asked if there were any current requests for comments. Ms. Liebersbach responded that there were not, but the TAC would like the ability to comment when requests are made.

Director Jorritsma asked if requests for comments would be sent before our GSP is adopted. Ms. Kincaid responded that because we are a formal agency CEQA requires other agencies to distribute documents to us for comments.

There was discussion about redundancy if the member agencies are all providing comments on the same project.

ACTION: ***Motion*** by Director Jorritsma, seconded by Director Esquer, approving the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to submit comment letters pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on behalf of the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency regarding projects that may impact groundwater resources. All voted in favor with none opposed. Directors Chiesa and Espinoza were absent. The Chair declared the motion carried.

5. DRUG-FREE WORK PLACE POLICY

Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel, advised that the Department of Water Resources, per the Government Code, requires that prior to issuing Prop. 1 funding a grantee is required to certify that it has a Drug Free Workplace policy in place. She provided information on required certification.

ACTION: ***Motion*** by Director Vierra, seconded by Director Odom, to adopt the Drug-Free Workplace Statement and Policy, and authorize the Chair of the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency to execute the Drug-Free Workplace Certification. All voted in favor with none opposed. Directors Chiesa and Espinoza were absent. The Chair declared the motion carried.

6. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES GRANT AWARD CONTRACT

Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel, advised that this action provides the Board with the existing grant package contract, budget and scope of work. Staff understands that the contract will be sent to Sacramento for comments, then returned to this Board for signature. Our understanding is that it is not likely the documents will change, but if they change substantively staff will bring the final package back to the Board for approval. Ms. Kincaid requested a minor change to the motion that authorizes the Executive Director of the TAC or the Board Chair to sign the grant contract, to be consistent with a previous motion regarding the grant application package.

ACTION: ***Motion*** by Director Vierra, seconded by Director Esquer, authorizing the Executive Director or the Chair to execute the grant award contract with the Department of Water Resources barring any substantive changes to the contract. All voted in favor with none opposed. Directors Chiesa and Espinoza were absent. The Chair declared the motion carried.

7. TODD GROUNDWATER CONSULTANT AGREEMENT

Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel, advised that the Board's previous approval was to release Phase 1 only of the agreement with Todd Groundwater, as confirmation of grant funding was not available at that time. Funding has now been awarded and it is necessary to approve the remainder of the contract.

ACTION: ***Motion*** by Director Vierra, seconded by Director Jorritsma, approving the remaining phases of the Todd Groundwater contract. All voted in favor with none opposed. Directors Chiesa and Espinoza were absent. The Chair declared the motion carried.

G. REPORTS

1. REVIEW OF THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN PROJECT SCHEDULE

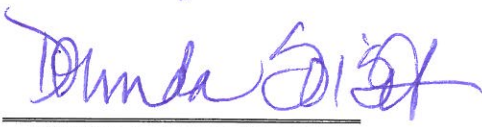
Debbie Liebersbach, TAC Member, reviewed the schedule of work tasks, work products, East and West Turlock Subbasin GSA meeting schedules, inter-basin coordination meetings and public workshops by each year. No action was taken by the Board.

H. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

None

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m.



Interim Agency Secretary