

**EAST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

Draft Meeting Minutes

**March 30, 2017 – 10:00 AM
Board of Directors Meeting
Denair Community Center
3850 N. Gratton Road, Denair, California 95316**

BOARD MEMBERS:

Al Rossini, Eastside Water District
Dirk Ulrich, Ballico-Cortez Water District
Hicham ElTal, Merced Irrigation District
Lloyd Pareira, Merced County & Vice-Chair
Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Sign-in Sheet provided at meetings.

Quorum provided by: Chair Al Rossini, Member Dirk Ulrich, and Alternate Member Walt Ward. (*Please see attendance sheet attached for others in attendance, including public.*)

2. STAFF UPDATES

Kevin Kauffman, of Eastside WD, Walt Ward of Stanislaus County, and Lacey Kiriakou of Merced County will provide reports.

A motion was made and seconded to add ‘approval of the March 16, 2017 meeting’ to the March 31, 2017 meeting agenda. The motion passed unanimously. To comply with the Brown Act, a new agenda will be mailed out today.

Member Walt Ward reported on progress of West Turlock Subbasin GSA and the GSP ‘roadmap’ effort being completed through the TGBA. It was suggested at the WTS GSA meetings that the GSP be completed by 2020 to assure funding opportunities are not missed. Lacey Kiriakou noted that coordination between the WTS GSA and this GSA was also critical to the success of the GSP, and an MOU between the two is suggested.

Chair Al Rossini suggested a meeting schedule. The WTS GSA is meeting the 1st Thursday of the quarter and perhaps this GSA can meet on the 4th Thursday.

A discussion occurred as to the continuation of this GSA member entity, and where the authority and responsibility of approving and implementing the GSP lies. In summary, all of these entities would continue, but a full commitment to this GSA has been made and will be expected.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Interested persons in the audience are welcome to introduce any topic within the Agency's jurisdiction. No action may be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that the Board may briefly respond to the comments, refer the matter to staff, or request it be placed on a future agenda.

There was no public comment.

4. PUBLIC HEARING – GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (GSA) FORMATION

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires a GSA to be successfully formed with the Department of Water Resources by June 30, 2017. This public hearing expresses the Agency's intent to become a GSA is part of this process. After two days of formal public hearings the Board of Directors expects to take the following action: Approve the attached Resolution.

The public hearing was opened at 10:27 am. Kevin Kauffman explained the intent of this hearing and the requirement that such a hearing occur in both Stanislaus and Merced Counties. He also explained the steps to be taken following this public hearing based on its results. Chair Al Rossini asked if the Board Members had any questions or concerns. Following that, he asked if the public had any comments or questions. With no further questions, Chair Al Rossini closed the public hearing at 10:36 am.

All other action items on this agenda were postponed until the March 31, 2017 meeting.

5. GSA STAFFING

Staff will recommend that the Agency appoint a Secretary. ACTION: Appoint a Secretary. Action was postponed until March 31, 2017 meeting.

The Board may also discuss the positions of Executive Director and Legal Counsel, and take any formal action it deems necessary on these positions.

It was suggested that a request for qualifications and interested type process occur for these positions.

6. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Staff will recommend a Technical Advisory Committee composition for the East Turlock Subbasin GSA JPA.

No discussion occurred on this item.

7. BYLAWS

Staff asked for comments on the Draft Bylaws of the East Turlock Subbasin GSA.

Suggested language will be added to include that the alternate to a Board of Director officer position would fill the role of the appointed Member.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Board Members may provide a brief report on notable topics of interest. The Brown Act does not allow discussion or action by the Legislative Body.

No comments were provided.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the March 30, 2017 meeting at 10:55 am. The next meeting is at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at Cortez Hall

March 31, 2017 – 10:00 AM
Board of Directors Meeting
Cortez Hall
12937 N. Cortez Avenue, Turlock, California 95380

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Sign-in Sheet provided at meetings.

Ouorum provided by: Chair Al Rossini, Member Dirk Ulrich, and Member Vito Chiesa.

Please see attendance sheet attached for others in attendance, including public.

2. STAFF UPDATES

Kevin Kauffman, of Eastside WD, Walt Ward of Stanislaus County, and Lacey Kiriakou of Merced County will provide reports.

Phyliss Stanin of Todd Groundwater presented a summary of the purpose of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014, and what the agencies overlying the Turlock Subbasin have been doing to address its requirements. The West and East Turlock Subbasin GSAs are forming and they are cooperating on a 'roadmap' effort to be ready to complete their groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) well in advance of the deadlines of SGMA.

Member Vito Chiesa asked if the WTS and ETS GSAs would be down-graded because they do not overly a 'critically overdrafted' subbasin. Ms. Stanin was not certain about how this would play out, but felt that this will be a focus of the GSAs efforts moving forward.

Member Dirk Ulrich asked about the timing for completing the GSP. Ms. Stanin said that the selected consulting team could certainly achieve most any schedule established by the GSAs, but the process always takes longer than one anticipates.

Chair Al Rossini thanked Ms. Stanin for her thorough and informative presentation.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Interested persons in the audience are welcome to introduce any topic within the Agency's jurisdiction. No action may be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that the Board may briefly respond to the comments, refer the matter to staff, or request it be placed on a future agenda.

There were no public comments.

4. MINUTES FROM MARCH 16, 2017 INITIAL MEETING

Member Vito Chiesa moved, seconded by Member Dirk Ulrich to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2017 meeting. The motion passed, with Chair Al Rossini abstaining because he did not attend that meeting.

5. PUBLIC HEARING – GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (GSA) FORMATION

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires a GSA to be successfully formed with the Department of Water Resources by June 30, 2017. This public hearing expresses the Agency's intent to become a GSA is part of this process. After two days of formal public hearings the Board of Directors expects to take the

following action: Approve the attached Resolution.

This public hearing was opened at 10:32 am. Kevin Kauffman explained the intent of this hearing and the requirement that such a hearing occur in both Stanislaus and Merced Counties. He also explained the steps to be taken following this public hearing based on its results. Chair Al Rossini asked if the Board Members had any questions or concerns. Following that, he asked if the public had any comments or questions. With no further questions, Chair Al Rossini closed the public hearing at 10:36 am.

Member Vito Chiesa moved, seconded by Member Dirk Ulrich to approve Resolution Number 2016-17-01 declaring the intent of the ETS GSA JPA to form a GSA as authorized under the SGMA. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Hicham ElTal moved, seconded by Member Dirk Ulrich to authorize the most recent draft letter be sent to DWR using the portal that DWR has established for submittal of GSA formation documentation. The motion passed unanimously.

6. GSA STAFFING

Staff will recommend that the Agency appoint a Secretary. ACTION: Appoint a Secretary.

Chair Al Rossini introduced Karen Whinn, the Secretary of the EWD. Ms. Whinn stated her appreciation for being asked to present the case as to why she should be appointed as the Secretary to the ETS GSA JPA.

Following a few questions and answers, Member Vito Chiesa moved, seconded by Member Hicham ElTal to appoint Karen Whipp as the Secretary of the ETS GSA JPA. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board may also discuss the positions of Executive Director and Legal Counsel, and take any formal action it deems necessary on these positions.

Kevin Kauffman, Lacey Kiriakou, and Walt Ward suggested that the ETS GSA JPA be guided initially by a 'Coordinator' rather than an executive director; and that Kevin Kauffman be this Coordinator.

Member Vito Chiesa moved, seconded by Member Dirk Chiesa to appoint Kevin Kauffman as the ETS GSA JPA Coordinator. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Directors directed that the Secretary and Coordinator costs incurred by the ETS GSA JPA be paid through a reimbursement type procedure to EWD, where both appointees currently have hourly consulting agreements.

It was suggested that a legal counsel for the ETS GSA GBA be selected after some type of selection process. The Coordinator committed to contact Jeanne Zolezzi, Valerie Concade, Gary Sawyer and others in an attempt to provide the Board with four (4) names to consider for such an appointment.

7. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Staff will recommend a Technical Advisory Committee composition for the East Turlock Subbasin GSA JPA.

Kevin Kauffman, Lacey Kiriakou, and Walt Ward suggested that the ETS GSA JPA formation committee act as the TAC for the Board of Directors. When asked to clarify, it was stated that TAC would be essentially those that attended this meeting, and more can be added at the direction of the Board of Directors. Member Vito

Chiesa moved, seconded by Member Dirk Ulrich that the TAC be established as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

8. BYLAWS

Staff asked for comments on the Draft Bylaws of the East Turlock Subbasin GSA.

Kevin Kauffman provided an updated version of the proposed By-Laws dated March 31, 2017. The only update was to form and including the meeting dates and dealing with language that the alternate to a Board of Director officer position would fill the role of the appointed Member. After a couple of questions and answers, Member Dirk Ulrich moved, seconded by Member Vito Chiesa to approve the ETS GSA JPA By-Laws. The motion passed unanimously.

9. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Board Members may provide a brief report on notable topics of interest. The Brown Act does not allow discussion or action by the Legislative Body.

After significant discussion, the Board agreed that they would meet as needed over the next year following a call to meeting by the Chair. To assure continued dissemination of information, the ETS GSA JPA will meet here at Cortez Hall at 10 am at a minimum of the following dates over the next year:

April 27, 2017
July 27, 2017
October 26, 2017
January 25, 2018
April 26, 2018

10. ADJOURNMENT

Member Hicham ElTal moved to adjourn the March 31, 2017 meeting at 11:02 am.