

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL 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.
January 11, 2018

A. CALL TO ORDER

GSA Chair Joe Alamo called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Directors Alamo (TID), Alves (Modesto), Chiesa (Stanislaus County), Jorritsma (Hilmar), Odom (Denair CSD), Pareira – seated at 6:14 PM (Merced County), Soiseth (Turlock), Worsham (Delhi CSD) and Young (Hughson)

ABSENT: Director Vierra (Ceres)

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: *Motion* by Director Soiseth, seconded by Director Chiesa that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 14, 2017 be approved as submitted. All voted in favor with none opposed. Director Vierra (Ceres) was absent and Director Pareira arrived after this action. The Chair declared the motion carried.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public.

E. AGENDA ITEMS

1. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CONSULTANT CONTRACT

Valerie Kincaid, Special Counsel, provided the staff report and advised that a Request for Proposal to prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Turlock Subbasin was distributed and one proposal was received from Todd Groundwater. On December 18, 2017, the TAC held a special meeting and took action to recommend that the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WTS GSA) execute an agreement with Todd Groundwater and approve Phase 1 of the contract. Ms. Kincaid said that because the amount of grant funding that would be awarded is not known, staff is recommending that the GSA approve just the first phase of the contract.

Phyllis Stanin of Todd Groundwater, presented an overview of the GSP development process and the impact that grant funding may have on the phasing of the contract. Ms. Stanin reviewed the five sustainability indicators of the Turlock Subbasin, the general components of a GSP, and the required communication elements and said that the work plan involves 14 tasks that closely follow GSP regulations. She reviewed possible funding scenarios and said that they have tried to modify their scope and budget to meet

grant funding availability, and identified the tasks that could be modified. Ms. Stanin also identified the Phase 1 tasks that would be the first part of Todd's contract if approved.

There was discussion about the amount of work required for the West Turlock Subbasin versus the entire basin. Ms. Stanin responded that it would be difficult to separate the work plan by GSA.

Valerie Kincaid advised that the WTS GSA will be the contracting agency, and the East Subbasin will pay back their portion to the West Subbasin. She reviewed the actions that the GSA could take, and the Board took the following action:

ACTION: *Motion* by Director Chiesa, seconded by Director Pareira, to approve and direct the Chair of the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board to execute the Consultant Agreement with Todd Groundwater for the preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Turlock Subbasin, and to approve Phase 1 of the Agreement in the amount of \$210,270. All voted in favor with none opposed. Director Vierra was absent. The Chair declared the motion carried.

2. CONSOLIDATION OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Michael Cooke, Chair of the WTS TAC, provided the staff report and noted that in March of 2017, Ms. Phaedra Norton of the City of Turlock was appointed General Counsel for the WTS GSA and Ms. Valerie Kincaid O'Laughlin & Paris LLP was appointed Special Counsel. As a new agency, it made sense to have two attorneys with specialized skills capable of getting the WTS GSA off the ground in accordance with all relevant statutory requirements. Now that the agency is moving towards developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan, it is appropriate to consider consolidating these two positions. At its December meeting, Director Soiseth requested that the matter of consolidating the General and Special Counsel positions for the West Turlock Subbasin be placed on the next agenda. Ms. Kincaid is already under contract with the WTS GSA Board and the existing agreement is sufficient for her new role as General Counsel.

The Board took the following action:

ACTION: *Resolution 2018-01* – Appointing Ms. Valerie Kincaid of O'Laughlin & Paris LLP as the General Counsel of the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WTS GSA) pursuant to Article 9.2 of the Joint Powers Agency Agreement forming the West Turlock Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Moved by Director Soiseth, seconded by Director Chiesa, that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Upon roll call, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Directors Alves (Modesto), Jorritsma (Hilmar CWD), Chiesa (Stanislaus County), Pareira (Merced County), Soiseth (Turlock), Young (Hughson), and Odom (Denair CSD), Worsham (Delhi CWD) and Alamo (TID)

Noes: None

Absent: Director Vierra (Ceres)

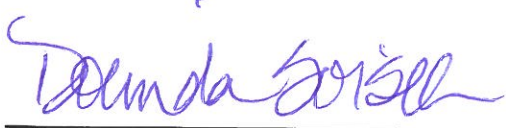
The Chair declared the resolution adopted.

H. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Director Chiesa acknowledged Phaedra Norton for her work on the WTS GSA as General Counsel. Ms. Norton thanked the Board and staff for their support during the past year.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.



Dorenda Sorell
Interim Agency Secretary