



APPROVED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 29, 2020

The Governing Board of the Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency met on the above date pursuant to notice at 9:00 A.M. via teleconference call consistent with temporary authorization to deviate from Brown Act meeting guidelines issued through Executive Order by California Governor Gavin Newsom.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 9:00 A.M., Hicham Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order. MIUGSA Board Clerk, Jennifer McMaster made an announcement regarding changes that have been made to the Board meeting procedures in order to make good faith efforts to comply with the Governor's Executive Orders and allow the public the opportunity to observe, participate and comment in the Board's meeting.

Ms. McMaster stated that staff had not received any emails from members of the public requesting a link to the video portion of the meeting or commenting on any agenda item. Ms. McMaster also informed the public of the procedure for submitting comments during the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following MIUGSA Representatives present:

Name	Organization
Hicham Eltal (Chair)	Merced Irrigation District
Ken Elwin	City of Merced
Justin Vinson	City of Atwater
Jose Antonio Ramirez	City of Livingston (Arrived at 10:04 AM)
Carlos Valencia	Winton Water and Sanitary District (CSD)
Daniel Chavez	Planada Community Services District (CSD)
Cynthia Benavidez	Le Grand Community Services District (CSD)

CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Meeting Minutes: February 12, 2020

On motion by Ken Elwin (City of Merced), seconded by Cynthia Benavidez (Le Grand CSD); the Board unanimously approved the minutes as written.

REPORTS

Matthew Beaman, Merced Irrigation District, Water Resources Regulatory Engineer presented and provided an update regarding projects benefiting Severely Disadvantaged Communities, funded under the 2017 Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant. Mr. Beaman summarized funding received as well as projects funded under the grant. Those projects include the Planada Groundwater Recharge Pilot Basin & Monitoring Well, the El Nido Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and the Meadowbrook Intertie Feasibility Study. In regard to the Planada Groundwater Recharge Pilot Basin, Mr. Beaman indicated that additional testing is being completed; in the case that the testing does not show favorable recharge conditions, alternative approaches to a traditional recharge basin and/or relocation of the recharge basin is currently under consideration. All wells under the El Nido Project have been installed. As to the Meadowbrook Feasibility Study, Mr. Beaman reported that continued coordination is required. Mr. Beaman discussed the next steps moving forward.

Chairman Eltal provided an update on the Merced Groundwater Subbasin Allocation Framework. Mr. Eltal indicated that an MOU is being developed, however further review and revisions are required. Chairman Eltal remains optimistic that progress will be made in a positive direction for the best interest of all parties.

Mr. Beaman provided a presentation regarding the status of the 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report for water years 2016-2019 and summarized groundwater level changes, groundwater storage, and subsidence over the last few years, which were included in the report. Mr. Beaman indicated that the annual report was submitted by the deadline and is available for review on the Merced SGMA website.

Hansford Economic Consulting, Catherine Hansford provided a presentation regarding the 2019 MIUGSA Rate Study. Ms. Hansford outlined potential procedures for developing a fee structure for funding GSA activities and provided an overview of the progress made so far. Ms. Hansford presented and discussed potential fee structure options. The Board discussed and provided feedback on the fee structures presented. Based on feedback provided, Ms. Hansford will begin focusing on development options for an acreage based fee structure. Ms. Hansford discussed the next steps and timeline moving forward. Ken Elwin (City of Merced) asked that one of the tables included in the presentation be revised to include numbers which were previously submitted by the City of Merced. Ms. Hansford will provide a revised table to the Board at a future meeting.

Pando Public Relations, Schaelene Rollins presented an outreach plan and corresponding timeline for public participation in the development of a fee structure to fund regulatory activities of the GSA. Ms. Rollins provided highlights of the outreach efforts made to residential, commercial and agricultural constituents and discussed future outreach strategies. Ms. Rollins provided an overview and asked for Board feedback on implementation of a virtual protocol for outreach while

COVID-19 social distancing measures are in place. Included in the discussion was the establishment of a committee of two Board members to assist in the development of the public

outreach communication. Chairman Eltal and Cynthia Benevidez (Planada CSD) volunteered to assist.

ACTIONS

None.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Cynthia Benevidez (Le Grand CSD) indicated that an agreement between Winton and Planada is being drafted and will be presented at the next Board meeting.

CLOSED SESSSION

None.

ADJOURN

On motion by Cynthia Benavidez (Le Grand CSD), seconded by Ken Elwin (City of Merced); the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 P.M.