



APPROVED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 23, 2020

The Governing Board of the Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MIUGSA) met virtually on the above date pursuant to notice at 9:00 A.M., 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., Chair Hicham Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order. Cheryl Miller, Merced Irrigation District, Water Resources Coordinator 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. Miller 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. Miller 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
Joseph Angulo	City of Merced
Jose Antonio Ramirez	City of Livingston
Justin Vinson	City of Atwater
Carlos Valencia	Winton Water and Sanitary District (CSD)
Cynthia Benavidez	Le Grand Community Services District (CSD)

Roll call showed the following MIUGSA Representatives absent:

Name	Organization
Daniel Chavez	Planada Community Services District (CSD)

CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

REPORTS

Catherine Hansford, Hansford Economic Consulting provided a review and update regarding the draft fee study report. She discussed the items contained within the report and the public outreach efforts made in order to engage the public and gather input regarding the development of the fee. Ms. Hansford discussed the next steps and indicated that the final report is anticipated to be complete and recommended for adoption at an upcoming MIUGSA Board meeting.

Chair Eltal asked that Ms. Hansford provide an overview of the feedback received by the public regarding the separate fee options. Ms. Hansford indicated that some folks expressed concern regarding whether the fee would be equitable amongst the various users. Ms. Hansford further indicated that there was recognition that some businesses and land use types use more water than others.

Ms. Hansford and Chair Eltal solicited feedback from the Board with regard to the draft fee study report. No additional feedback was provided.

ACTIONS

None.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Chair Eltal discussed the establishment of an ad-hoc committee to review comments to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan implementation MOU that MIUGSA has been working on with the other GSA's (Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Turner Island Water District). The ad-hoc committee will consist of Merced Irrigation District, City of Merced, and Le Grand CSD. Formal negotiations with the other GSA's regarding implementation will follow. Some items for discussion include the allocation of groundwater, encouraged use of surface water when available, exchanges of groundwater, and potential for groundwater banking.

Chair Eltal discussed an upcoming Coordination Committee meeting. He anticipates the meeting to include discussion regarding securing a consultant for the development of a study for filling data gaps within the GSP as part of a \$500k Prop 68 California Department of Water Resources grant to assist with groundwater monitoring efforts within the Merced groundwater basin. Chair Eltal indicates that the Merced Subbasin GSAs anticipate working with surrounding basins in the process of filling data gaps. Chair Eltal discussed the State Technical Services, which could provide well drilling and other related services. Chair Eltal indicated that the Coordination Committee will consider submitting a general application for funding projects like installation of

monitoring wells and states the Data Gaps plan funded by the Proposition 68 grant will likely guide where the physical work will take place.

CLOSED SESSSION

None.

ADJOURN

On motion by Cynthia Benavidez (Le Grand CSD), seconded by Jose Ramirez (City of Livingston); the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 A.M.