



**APPROVED** BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
August 9, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

At 9:12 A.M., Hicham Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

**REPRESENTATIVES:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Hicham Eltal (Chair)	Merced Irrigation District
Stephanie Dietz (Vice Chair)	City of Merced
Johnnie Baptista	City of Merced
Jose Antonio Ramirez	City of Livingston
Justin Vinson	City of Atwater
Brenda Wey	Winton Water District
Carlos Valencia	Winton Water District
Daniel Chavez	Planada Community Services District

**ATTENDEES:**

Annmarie Felsing	Merced Irrigation District, MIUGSA Coordinator
Marco Bell	Merced Irrigation District

**ROLL CALL**

The above listed representatives were present.

**WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Meeting Minutes July 19, 2017

On motion by Daniel Chavez (CSD), seconded by Vice Chair Stephanie Dietz (City of Merced), the Board unanimously approved the minutes as written.

## **REPORTS**

### 1. Review status of MIUGSA

Chairman Hicham Eltal gave an update of the status of MIUGSA. Chairman Eltal explained that we are in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and have been working with our neighboring Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) within the basin, and collectively work with neighboring basins. Once we develop the Merced Groundwater Management Plan (GSP), each agency will each do its own implementation.

### 2. Review status of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a GSP, including protocols for selecting a consultant and communications with the consultant.

Chairman Eltal specified that we worked with Merced Subbasin and Turner Island Water District GSAs to complete the RFP. The RFP has been posted online on the MIUGSA website ([miugsa.org](http://miugsa.org) and [mercedgroundwater.org](http://mercedgroundwater.org)) and several consultants were notified and invited to bid. Chairman Eltal explained that we are looking for at least three (3) bids and that final award date is expected to be on August 31, 2017.

### 3. Discuss California Department of Water Resources (DWR) GSP Grant under Prop 1 and potential Merced Basin approach.

Chairman Eltal stated that the grant expires in October, and the intent is to have the selected consultant to apply for the grant. Therefore a quick turnaround for the RFP will be required. He went through the RFP including the calendar of deliverables as well as discussed in detail the objectives, scope of services, and the selection process.

### 4. Discuss a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the three recognized groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) in the basin cooperating towards a single basin-wide GSP, including proposed cost share for preparing the GSP.

Chairman Eltal presented the draft MOU and said that our MIUGSA coordination sub-committee have been diligently working with its counter parts from the sister GSAs to get the MOU finalized and signed by all parties.

### 5. Report on discussions regarding a DWR GSP facilitation grant.

Chairman Eltal provided an overview on the grant discussions and explained that since the Merced Groundwater Basin is designated by DWR as a critically overdrafted basin, we will apply for \$1.5MM. He also went on to describe that this grant will require a fifty percent cost match, but as a disadvantaged community we may be able to collectively reduce our match by twenty-five to thirty percent. He stated, the remaining reduced local match, could be further reduced by subtracting all costs that could be applied to the development of the GSP made since May 28, 2016.

He then elaborated on the DWR GSP facilitation grant, stating that this grant could be above the above the \$1.5MM grant but spending for the facilitation under this additional grant would terminate by December 31, 2017. Chairman Eltal, explained that he is not asking for an action item for this, as it would be considered part of the selected consultant tasks to pursue all grants to help develop the GSP on time. He further added, the consultant should

make the final assessment if this additional grant is needed or adds value, based on the grant's regulations.

6. Discuss future role of the Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interests (MAGPI) memorandum of understanding, and its ongoing regulatory functions such as CASGEM.

Chairman Eltal explained that Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interests (MAGPI) Memorandum of Understanding fulfilled the State of California requirements under AB3030 and SB1938 that MAGPI since 1997. However, with the advent of SGMA MAGPI is now at a point that it can be phased into a possible sub-committee under the Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Authority. (IRWMA). The members present discussed the pros and cons of moving MAGPI to IRWM. He eluded that this will be discussed at one of the upcoming IRWM meetings. Additionally, he said that CASGEM is now a component of SGMA and will no longer be considered a separate entity. However, Stephanie Dietz of the City of Merced alluded that MAGPI could be needed to complete this task (CASGEM) until the GSP is completed and approved by DWR.

7. Discuss status of the draft inter-basin agreement between Merced and Chowchilla groundwater subbasins.

Chairman Eltal presented an overview on the status of the draft inter-basin agreement between Merced and Chowchilla groundwater subbasins. Chairman Eltal explained that the inter-basin agreement was an MID stipulation for the groundwater boundary modification requested by Chowchilla Groundwater Basin. Chairman Eltal explained that MID believes that the agreement would provide some protection to both basins, as both basins include subsidence areas along their new boundary lines. He added that he discussed the subsidence issue with State Water Resources Control Board members and legal counsel. He stated, the SWRCB showed interest in identifying such areas and show cooperative work between all parties aimed at alleviating undesirable results. He stated that he stressed to the SWRCB that the basins should not be penalized for future subsidence that may have started before SGMA and may not be physically stopped. He said the last draft is with Chowchilla GSAs and Merced goal is to execute the agreement before December of 2018.

### **ACTIONS**

None

### **BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD**

None

### **ADJOURN**

Vice Chair Stephanie Dietz (City of Merced) moved to adjourn the meeting. Brenda Wey (CSD) seconded the motion. MIUGSA Meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.