

On motion by Bob Giampaoli (CSD), seconded by Ken Elwin (City of Merced), the Board unanimously approved the minutes as written.

REPORTS

1. Report on California Department of Water Resources (DWR) approval of MIUGSA.

Chairman Hicham Eltal gave an update of the status of MIUGSA. Chairman Eltal explained that we applied for the GSA and was approved as “EXCLUSIVE” with no gaps or overlaps of our entire basin on August 29, 2017.

2. Report on the status of the Request for Proposal for a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), and the selected consultant.

Chairman Eltal specified that the RFP had been posted online on the MIUGSA website (miugsa.org and mercedgroundwater.org) and five (5) consultants’ submitted bids. Chairman Eltal explained that the award date was on August 31, 2017 and after careful review Woodard & Curran was selected and the agreement is being fine-tuned and should be signed very soon.

3. Discuss DWR GSP Grant under Prop 1.

Chairman Eltal informed the Board that to his knowledge at this time, the grant expires around the end of October and critically overdrafted basins such as Merced Groundwater Basin are eligible to up to 1.5 MM, if approved. The GSAs in the Merced Groundwater Basin intend to have the selected consultant for the GSP apply for this grant.

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

Chairman Eltal explained the importance of the MOU to the Board and 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. 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 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). Chairman Eltal recommended that we have at least one more MAGPI meeting to define the future of MAGPI and release the Water Resources Model to the GSP process.

6. Discuss status of the existing MAGPI Water Resources Model and its potential use to meet SGMA requirements.

Chairman Eltal explained that there have been numerous conversations with legal counsel and the consensus was to have MAGPI give the Water Resources Model to the GSP process, with the understanding that it will need to go through major modifications and expansions to fit the GSA under SGMA.

7. Discuss the monetary distributions of the Community Services Districts(CSDs)

The Board discussed and recommended that the CSD's should meet on their own to define the monetary distribution amounts amongst the CSDs and report back to the Board.

ACTIONS

None

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

None

ADJOURN

Jose Antonio Ramirez (City of Livingston) moved to adjourn the meeting. Ken Elwin (City of Merced) seconded the motion. MIUGSA Meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM.