



**APPROVED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
November 13, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

At 9:04 A.M., Hicham Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed the following MIUGSA Representatives present:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Hicham Eltal (Chair)	Merced Irrigation District
Ken Elwin	City of Merced
Justin Vinson	City of Atwater
Carlos Valencia	Winton Water and Sanitary District (CSD)
Daniel Chavez	Planada Community Services District (CSD)
Cynthia Benavidez	Le Grand Community Services District (CSD)

The following MIUGSA Representatives were absent:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Stephanie Dietz (Vice Chair)	City of Merced
Jose Antonio Ramirez	City of Livingston

**CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Meeting Minutes: October 23, 2019

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

**REPORTS**

Chairman Eltal discussed the schedules for the Coordination and Stakeholder Committee meetings, and indicated that the meetings will likely be on hold until the next phase of the GSP.

However, the coordination meetings with other basins are expected to continue. Chairman Eltal indicated that, at the upcoming coordination meeting, the basins will discuss the challenge related to subsidence.

Chairman Eltal reported that the GSP has been certified by a registered professional geologist in accordance with SGMA and is posted on the Merced SGMA website. The Board discussed the time schedule for the adoption of the GSP: the City of Merced plans to hold its meeting on December 2, 2019; the City of Livingston plans to consider adoption on December 3, 2019, the City of Atwater plans to hold its meeting on December 9, 2019; and MID plans to hold its meeting on December 10, 2019. The CSD's plan adopt prior to December 11, 2019.

Chairman Eltal discussed the previous Ad-Hoc Allocation Framework meeting. Chairman Eltal indicated that ground rules were discussed in relation to a draft MOU, however no set rules were established. Chairman Eltal indicated that some discussion regarding allocation, groundwater credits, and verifying measurements of water will need to take place at a future meeting. Chairman Eltal indicated that a draft MOU is in the works and will be discussed at an upcoming Ad-Hoc meeting and MIUGSA may hold a meeting to discuss as well. Ken Elwin discussed the possibility of bringing stakeholders into the conversation related to the allocation framework. Chairman Eltal indicated that there has been discussions related to holding a meeting with both the stakeholders and the Coordination Committee. Chairman Eltal indicated that he would like to encourage folks who represent the disadvantaged areas to attend the Ad-Hoc meetings.

Chairman Eltal gave an update and discussed progress on the 2019 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Planning Grant, Round 3 projects (Planada recharge basin, El Nido monitoring wells, and Meadowbrook Feasibility Study). Chairman Eltal indicated permission has been received to install a pilot recharge basin and monitoring well in Le Grand, south of Planada, and that there is a contract in place, however not yet executed due to ongoing negotiations. As to the El Nido monitoring wells, Chairman Eltal reported that there is a license agreement in place with Merced County to install a monitoring well on their El Nido Fire Station property and an additional location has been identified for the placement of a second monitoring well to be located within a public right of way near the Merced/Chowchilla subbasins (DWR Bulletin 118) boundary. Chairman Eltal reported that the Meadowbrook Feasibility Study is in the works, the contract has been signed and progress is being made.

Chairman Eltal presented and discussed LAFCO File No. 0688 – Notice of Formation of Owens Creek Water District. The Board reviewed and discussed a joint GSA letter to LAFCO commenting on the application to form the Owens Creek Water District. Chairman Eltal indicated that the joint comments will be sent on behalf of all three GSA's and MIUGSA will have its own set of comments as well.

## **ACTIONS**

1. Consider authorizing a member agency to pursue and execute contract(s) with one or more consulting firms for the purpose of performing analyses related to funding the GSA, as well as potential rate setting services

Chairman Eltal indicated that the Board would be conducting interviews and receiving presentations from two consulting firms for work related to funding the GSA, as well as potential rate setting services. Chairman Eltal indicated that in order to expedite the process, and since MIUGSA does not have the financial ability to administer contracts, it is recommended that the Board authorize a representing agency to administer the contract(s).

After further discussion, Cynthia Benavidez (Le Grand CSD) made a motion to authorize MID to pursue and execute all necessary documents with the consultant(s) chosen for the purpose of performing analyses related to funding the GSA, as well as potential rate setting services, seconded by Justin Vinson (City of Atwater); the Board unanimously approved the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes:	Eltal, Elwin, Vinson, Benavidez, Valencia, Chavez
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Ramirez, Dietz

### **BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD**

The Board conducted interviews and received presentations from two consulting firms, Hansford Economic Consulting and Raftelis, in response to the “MIUGSA-RFQ-2019 Fee/Tax/Assessment Analysis and Rate Setting Services”, for the purpose of considering execution of contract(s) to perform analyses related to funding the GSA, as well as potential rate setting services. The Board discussed each presentation and provided feedback, but took no action.

Chairman Eltal discussed each member agencies costs related to SGMA and indicated that this will be important to complete the rate assessment study, following selection of a consultant. The Board will discuss consultant selection at a subsequent meeting of the Board.

### **CLOSED SESSSION**

None.

### **ADJOURN**

Cynthia Benavidez (Le Grand CSD) made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Justin Vinson (City of Atwater) seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:34AM.