



APPROVED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2020

The Governing Board of the Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MIUGSA) 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
Joseph Angulo	City of Merced
Justin Vinson	City of Atwater
Jose Antonio Ramirez	City of Livingston
Carlos Valencia	Winton Water and Sanitary District (CSD)
Cynthia Benavidez	Le Grand Community Services District (CSD)
Daniel Chavez	Planada Community Services District (CSD)

CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Eltal reported that DWR contacted him to discuss a draft letter regarding subsidence and discussed the potential for future challenges regarding thresholds.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Meeting Minutes: April 29, 2020

On motion by Justin Vinson (City of Atwater), seconded by Jose Ramirez (City of Livingston); the Board unanimously approved the minutes as written

REPORTS

Chairman Eltal provided some background on the MOU forming MIUGSA and the member agencies cost-share associated with the agreement. Cynthia Benevidez (Le Grand CSD) explained that under the current MOU the community services districts (CSD's) were grouped together and allocated a total of 3% of the groundwater sustainability agency's expenses. Ms. Benevidez discussed the development of an agreement between the CSD's for allocation of their portion of the costs. Ms. Benevidez reported that the CSD cost-sharing agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Le Grand Community Services District as of its March 12, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. Chairmain Eltal commented that the allocation between the CSD's may not be required after groundwater charges are set for all users. However, the concept will be valuable for funding activities and projects not supported by the groundwater charges.

Catherine Hansford, Hansford Economic Consulting and Schaelene Rollins, Pando Public Relations provided a review and update regarding the fee study budget and potential impacts due to changes in outreach efforts. Ms. Rollins reported that the most significant impacts are those costs not previously included in the budget related to postage for mailers; display ads; and, translation fees. Ms. Rollins assured, however that these activities will be important to encourage public participation.

Ms. Hansford reviewed the budget and cash flow related to the fee study and informed the Board of changes reflected due to adjustments made following the previous MIUGSA Board meeting.

ACTIONS

Ms. Rollins presented and provided an overview of outreach materials to encourage public participation in the development of a fee structure to fund regulatory activities of the groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) and discussed the next steps moving forward. Ms. Rollins requested review and approval of the outreach items and authorization to move forward as presented. The Board reviewed and provided feedback.

Upon further discussion Cynthia Benevidez (Le Grand CSD) made a motion to approve the outreach materials with revisions and authorize the next steps as presented, the motion was seconded by Jose Ramirez (City of Livingston); the Board voted unanimously to approve. The vote was as follows:

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

Chairman Eltal requested the Board review and consider adopting Resolution No. 2020-01, acknowledging the regulation of lands within the boundaries of the GSA, including the regulation of de minimus extractors. Mr. Eltal provided a presentation and summary of the resolution. Chairman Eltal noted some revisions to the resolution. Upon further discussion, Justin Vinson (City of Atwater) made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-01 with revisions as presented, the motion was seconded by Daniel Chavez (Planada CSD); the Board voted unanimously to approve. The vote was as follows:

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

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

None.

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 11:05 A.M.