

REPORTS

1. Chairman Eltal gave an update on the status of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

Chairman Eltal explained that we are currently putting together the stakeholder list for the GSP. He believed there will be ample interest, nevertheless, he encouraged everyone to solicit names and get applications completed before the February deadline.

2. Discussed upcoming joint GSP development kickoff meeting.

Chairman Eltal encouraged all Merced Irrigation Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MIUGSA) members to attend as well as invite their Board Members or anyone else interested in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). He reminded everyone that they all would be attending as individuals and not as a representative of MIUGSA. The joint GSP development kickoff meeting will be held at the Merced County Board Room at County of Merced Board Chambers, Third Floor 2222 M Street, Merced, California on January 11, 2018 at 2:30PM.

3. Discussed GSP development funding.

Chairman Eltal stated that we needed to fund the GSP as part of the California State law, and that SGMA is now part of the Water Code – specifically 10730.0 and 10730.2. By February 1, 2020 all the costs should be covered through the regulatory process that is not subject to a Proposition 218 process. However, the implementation of the plan would require a Proposition 218 process, at which time, the GSA can better estimate the cost and make the adequate proposed cost per agreed upon unit (be it Acres, Acre-Feet, or combinations) to move forward with the Prop 218 process. Chairman Eltal also concluded that we will work with the GSP consultant to help facilitate a unified Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) message for all three GSAs within the Merced Groundwater Basin, as best as possible, since we may have land owners how own properties in multiple GSAs.

4. Discussed Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interests (MAGPI) coming activities and its nexus with MIUGSA objectives.

Chairman Eltal gave a quick MAGPI overview for new MIUGSA member, Cynthia Benavidez (Le Grand Community Services District).

Additionally he explained that initially we believed we would immediately dissolve MAGPI, but after much discussion, it was decided that MAGPI will continue on until the GSP takes over all SGMA function by February 1, 2020. Mainly, MAGPI still manages the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring program (CASGEM) which is a component of SGMA. Chairman Eltal clarified MAGPI has historically managed the groundwater basin and did extensive work on the Groundwater Model that was started in 2006. The MAGPI Groundwater Model displays where the water went and focuses on the past. SGMA will look at the future.

Therefore, the intent is to make use of applicable data such as lithology, acquire better and/or verify data as neighboring water districts and basins are just taking on such activity, use the same platform (California Department of Water Resources Integrated Water Flow Model) and continue it on with the SGMA Groundwater Model.

ACTIONS

- 1. Considered and authorized the Chairman to execute a joint Notice of Intent to develop a GSAP, with all GSAs within the Merced Groundwater Basin, per required SGMA regulations.**

Daniel Chavez (CSD) made a motion to authorize Chairman Eltal to develop a GSAP on behalf of MIUGSA, with all GSAs within the Merced Groundwater Basin, per SGMA regulations. Justin Vinson (City of Atwater) seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

None

ADJOURN

Leah Brown (City of Merced) moved to adjourn the meeting. Brenda Wey (CSD) seconded the motion. MIUGSA Meeting adjourned at 9:59 AM.