

## **East Kings Sub-Basin Meeting - GSA Minutes**

**DATE:** February 26, 2015

**TIME:** 2:00 P.M.

**LOCATION:** ALTA ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA

**ATTENDANCE:** Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.  
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.  
Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.  
John Kalender, Alta I.D.  
Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor  
Denise English, Tulare County  
Alan Weaver, Fresno County  
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley  
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba  
Dan Meinert, City of Dinuba  
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove  
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.  
Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts  
Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District  
Dane Mathis, DWR  
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove I.D.

**Welcome:** Chris Kapheim, AID GM welcomed everyone.

**Approval of Minutes of the last meeting (January 22, 2015):**

There were no objections to the minutes as presented.

**Additions to Agenda:**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**Interested Parties:**

Visited hatted

**Status of MOU:** The City of Orange Cove, City of Reedley, Alta Irrigation District, Orange Cove Irrigation District, Hills Valley Water District, Cutler Public Utility District, and Tulare County Farm Bureau have adopted the MOU.

The City of Dinuba, Orosi Public Utility District, Tri Valley Water Districts, Tulare County, and Kings River Water District have it on their agendas to review and take action in March 2015.

**Chris Kaphiem, Alta I.D.** began the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation on the East Kings Sub-Basin & GSA Pre-Planning.

## **Discussion and direction:**

**Chris Kaphiem** explained the MOU process and the importance of Ag being part of the GSA.

**Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor** asked why would there be an issue with having Ag as part of the GSA in a JPA format.

**Chris Kaphiem** explained that the JPA wouldn't allow it because Ag is not a local agency. With a MOU Ag would be part of the GSA and would have a seat at the governance table.

**Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.** asked what would be the criteria of Ag's representation. Would it be a farmer, farm bureau, citrus or Ag associations?

**Chris Kaphiem** responded it would have to be a farmer that receives 70-80% of its income from Ag within the GSA.

## **Formation of Separate Sub Basin:**

DWR Rules and Regulations developing boundary changes/separate sub-basins: DWR will begin meetings and discussions in April 2015 regarding sub-basin boundaries. They will also release guidelines and information on their website; their deadline to develop rules and regulations for developing boundaries changes/separate sub-basins is January 2016.

## Legislation

**Example of Legislative Groundwater Management Act (Fox Canyon):** Identifies sub-basin boundaries and a five member board governance structure as one representative from each of the five groups (1) County (2) City (3) Water District (4) Special District and (5) Agriculture.

**Power point of essential elements for a Groundwater Management Act;** Chris Kapheim went over the Sub-Basin GSA Pre-planning power point addressing two administrative issues: defining the sub-basin area and governance. The boundaries for the sub-basin should be based on hydrological criteria; the proposed governance including agriculture (based on existing Fox Canyon Groundwater Program established by the legislation in 1982 to address their groundwater pumping issues).

**Timeline:** The deadline to submit a legislative proposal to create a special act groundwater management agency has been met. Alta ID contracted for the services of Reeb Government Relations in Sacramento and Doug Jensen, attorney at law, to assist in the draft legislation.

## Interconnection between Rules and Regulations and Legislation:

After the power point presentation, Chris Kapheim asked the group for their thoughts.

**Alan Weaver, Fresno County** expressed the concern of different agencies managing other agencies. i.e. Fresno County, City of Fresno, KRCD, FID etc. The County is not pushing any kind of government structure at this time. Fresno County is concern on the larger county basin picture and how we can work collectively as one basin; but does not want to have the state to take over.

**Steven Worthley** asked would Fresno County be opposed to the East Kings GSA.

**Alan Weaver** there are concerns with multiple governing agencies on the creation of a new sub-basin; But is in agreement in creating a GSA.

**Steven Worthley** compared the GSA to the Air Quality District. He stated that the Air Quality District focuses on the bad parts of the district and impose rules and regulations on those parts for the whole district. Would the GSA be similar in that aspect since the west side of Kings Basin is the worst affected area? That shouldn't be possible because groundwater does not move like air.

**Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley Manager**, wants to know how Fresno County is going to address the GSA.

**Alan Weaver** said that the County Supervisors will meet on March 10, 2015 and review the GSA process from Fresno County's perspective.

**Chris Kaphiem** shared his review on a recent tour to Turlock irrigation District. He explained that Turlock ID invested 10.9 million dollars in measurement systems and begin compliance with SB X7-7. Forty percent of their water is at risk due to legal issues and delta flow requirements.

That is the fear that the State would have authority to take away water or imposes rules and regulation in our area.

**Dane Mathis, DWR** stated that DWR will begin meeting on these issues starting in April.

**Chris Kaphiem** explained that Assemblyman Perea will carry this bill. Assemblyman Perea agrees with the bill concept.

**Denise English, Tulare County** asked how boundaries will affect the creation of the GSA.

**Chris Kaphiem**, the boundaries will be the individual agencies boundaries with the exception of the counties. There would be no white area between sub-basins.

**Chris Kaphiem** highlighted the Draft Principles of Agreement: Cooperative Agreement with other GSA's will be needed; the East Kings GSA will be generally east of the Kings River; Governance by a five-member Board; No impairment of any right or power of interested party(s); Agency is expected to regulate, conserve, manage and control the extraction of groundwater; Agency will operate in an open and transparent manner.

**Jack Paxton, KRWD** asked how we would follow the Bulletin 118 guidelines. Specifically on the assessments and how would recharge play a role in all of this. Would a Water Master enforce agencies trying to grow or develop, because they would have an impact on groundwater?

**Jack Paxton** asked if DWR will release the sustainability regulations.

**Dane Mathis** DWR is gathering input from local government to draft up the guidelines.

**Jack Paxton** expressed that in 20 years surface water would replenish groundwater but would never get to the level it started from. So why regulate.

**Dane Mathis** answered it's about being sustainable. DWR will assess the basins every 5 years and evaluate.

**Chris Kaphiem** met with Mike Soloman, Manager of United Water CD, and reviewed the Fox Canyon Implementation (1982), the good points, the bad points, and the concept of using a Watermaster to insure compliance.

**Steven Worthley** asked would a Watermaster have authority to regulate.

**Chris Kaphiem** explained how Fox Canyon 3.5 million dollar model did not work. The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) would need to be created. A Watermaster would have authority, from the board, to implement the plan.

**Denise English** asked if the governance of the GSA addresses principles and means of enforcement.

**Dane Mathis** stated that DWR is drafting best management practices for the GSAs. Likes the ideas and will be open to all suggestions. He recommends everyone to have flexibility and to be open to new guidelines.

**Chris Kaphiem** asked if we are having the right discussions and are going in the right direction.

The general consensus is in favor of the creation of the GSA. There are concerns with the existing sub-basin but are ok with creating the GSA. There were concerns expressed with state regulation for groundwater and how the Ag representative would be selected.

**Next Meeting Thursday, March 26, 2015**