



EASTERN TULE  
GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY  
AGENCY  
JOINT POWERS  
AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF THE ETGSA STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE HELD DECEMBER 13, 2018

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on December 13, 2018, at the Transit Multi Purpose Center at 15 E. Thurman Ave, Suite D, Porterville, CA, Chairman Matthew Leider, called to order the meeting of the Stakeholder Committee of the Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority (“ETGSA”).

### ROLL CALL

Members Present:	Don Castle	John Konda
	Kathy Briano	Bill Bennett
	Matt Watkins	Jason Guthrie
	Matthew Leider	Julia Inestroza
	Jim Parsons	

Members Absent:	Ben Magana	Sopac Mulholland
	Tom O’Sullivan	

Others Present:	Bryce McAteer	John Michael Domondon
	Garrett Busch	Mark Merritt
	David Payne	Terry Schuler
	Bill Morgan	Michael Reed
	Michael Knight	Ryan Jensen
	Cindy Bower	David De Groot
	Bill Wallace	Bill Samarin

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Leider announced the public comment period. No public comment was received.

### MINUTES

#### Approval of Stakeholder Committee Minutes of November 29, 2018

Executive Director McAteer presented the Minutes of the November 29, 2018 Stakeholder Committee Meeting, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #3.a.

Member Castle moved for approval of the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Bennet and the Committee unanimously approved the motion.

## ETGSA MEETINGS REVIEW

### Report on ETGSA Board Meeting of December 6, 2018

Executive Director McAteer provided a report to the Committee on the ETGSA Board Meeting of December 6, 2018. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #4.a is a copy of his report.

## TULE SUBBASIN COORDINATION

### Report on Coordination Agreement Drafting, TH&Co Task Items, and TH&Co land subsidence analysis; **may make a recommendation**

Executive Director McAteer provided a report regarding the status of the draft Coordination Agreement, Thomas Harder & Company's ("TH&Co") progress on their Task Items on behalf of the Tule Subbasin MOU Group, and the new analysis authorized by the Tule Subbasin GSAs related to land subsidence along the Friant-Kern Canal. The report is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #5.a; additionally, a copy of TH&Co's land subsidence analysis proposal is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #5.a. Exhibit A.

\*Jim Parsons arrived at this time.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the Tule Subbasin MOU Group Budget and if the costs of the scenario runs and the Subsidence Analysis had been included. Consulting Engineer David De Groot provided an overview of the Budget and the costs that had been estimated in that budget.

Public comment was received from Mike Reed.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the Water Budget Areas used in TH&Co's groundwater flow model, how they were formed, and the boundary adjustments proposed for some of those Water Budget Areas in the land subsidence analysis.

## GSP DRAFTING

### Discuss progress of GSP drafting, Board direction on Policy Points, and future topics of policy deliberation; **may make a recommendation**

Executive Director McAteer provided a report on the status of ETGSA's draft GSP, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.a, and provided the Committee with a copy of the Draft GSP Creation Schedule, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.a Exhibit A.

\*Don Castle left at this time.

Executive Director McAteer then directed the Committee to a presentation, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.a Exhibit B, describing Staff's recommendations on Policy Points B-N. Executive Director McAteer noted that Staff's recommendations are further described in a Memorandum and that these recommendations were informed by the past multiple months of Committee and stakeholder deliberation on the Policy Points, and that the Board had directed staff to draft the GSP using the concepts outlined in the Memo after it had been discussed at last week's Board meeting.

The Executive Director began a discussion with the Committee regarding whether or not they endorsed the recommendations made by Staff, or if they would like to further deliberate on the Policy Points.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding using metered wells to ground-truth remote evapotranspiration ("ET") monitoring of agricultural consumptive use. Staff noted that Lower Tule River and Pixley Irrigation Districts had already been running pilot programs on the technology, but that implementation would likely require some wells to be metered for comparison to the monitored ET use.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the different groundwater monitoring programs, and the definition of CASGEM.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the use of zones to mitigate potential transfer impacts, and if another method such as radial depreciation might be considered.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding properties that are bisected by ETGSA's jurisdictional boundaries and what authority ETGSA has to manage those lands outside of its boundaries.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding well registration and how landowners might be notified about the need to register their wells.

Public comment was received from Mike Reed.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding de minimis users and if they might need to register their wells.

Public comment was received from Mike Reed.

Additional discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the monitoring of de minimis use, the definition of de minimis, and the authority of the GSA to manage and monitor such use. Staff noted the definition of de minimis use provided in the SGMA legislation.

Public comment was received from Bill Samarin.

Discussion ensued amongst the committee regarding governance, structure, and conflicts of interest. It was recommended that questions of conflicts of interest should be directed to ETGSA's legal counsel.

Public comment received from Mike Reed.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the registration process for lands to receive sustainable yield and transitional allocations, and how to ensure that landowners are reached and groundwater users comply.

Public comment was received from Bill Morgan.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding what fees and other authorities the GSA could levy to ensure compliance. Discussion ensued regarding the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program ("ILRP"), current enrollment in the program, and how issues of non-compliance are handled. Consulting Engineer David De Groot noted that the ILRP's enrollment process took approximately 1 year and that greater than 90% of lands required to be enrolled have done so. He also described the fines and civil procedures the state can levy to ensure compliance.

Public comment was received from Terry Schuler.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding a due date for enrollment in ILRP and the potential similarities between how ILRP was implemented and how ETGSA might implement its sustainable groundwater management program.

Public comment was received from Mike Reed.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the registration of parcels and what allocations would be made to parcels registering after a five year allocation period has begun. Additional discussion ensued regarding what type of information would be required for the well information would be necessary for a well use permit.

Member Konda motioned to accept staff's policy point recommendations, as presented in the document. The motion was seconded by Member Guthrie.

Public comment was received from Bill Samarin.

Chairman Leider called for a vote on the motion. All members present voted yes, except for Member Watkins who voted no. There were no abstentions. The motion carried.

\*Julia Inestroza left at this time.

The Executive Director briefed the Committee that the next major policy discussions for the Committees would likely be Sustainable Management Criteria, Management Areas, and the results of TH&Co's various scopes of work. He asked the Committee if there were other issues that the Committee might like to discuss.

Discussion amongst the Committee ensued regarding defining historical use and whether or not legal counsel had provided a definition, and requested that legal counsel provide guidance on its definition. Policy issues that the Committee wished to discuss in the future included defining historical use, the mechanisms and functioning of the sharing system, the criteria necessary for validating a recharge project and how projects would be approved.

Public comment was received from Bill Morgan.

#### NEXT MEETING DATE

##### Report and discuss ongoing outreach activities and events

Executive Director McAteer provided a report to the Committee on the ongoing outreach of the ETGSA and upcoming SGMA events, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #7.a.

#### NEXT MEETING DATE

##### Next Meeting – Thursday, December 13, 2018 at Transit Multi Purpose Center (15 E. Thurman Ave, Suite D, Porterville)

The Executive Director McAteer noted that the next meeting of the Stakeholder Committee was scheduled for December 27, 2018, but asked if the Committee would like to cancel the meeting due to the holiday season.

Member Watkins moved to cancel the December 27, 2018 Stakeholder Committee meeting. Member Konda seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved.

The next meeting of the Stakeholder Committee is scheduled to take place on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at the Transit Multi Purpose Center.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Public comment was received from Bill Wallace.

Since there was no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Leider adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bryce G. McAteer, Secretary to the Board