



# ETGSA

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## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD JANUARY 11, 2024

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on January 11, 2024, at the City of Porterville, Council Chambers, Chairman Eric Borba called to order the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority (“ETGSA”). The meeting was also conducted remotely for members of the public.

Members Present:     Eric Borba                                     John Corkins  
                                 Steve Kisling                                     Matthew Leider  
                                 Dyson Schneider                                     Alt. Mike Knight (Online)  
                                 Dennis Townsend                                     Geoff Galloway

Members Absent:     Don Weyrauch

Others Present:     Aubrey Mauritsen                                     Rogelio Caudillo  
                                 David Payne                                     Andrew Hart  
                                 Tien Tran                                     Sean Geivet  
                                 Don Tucker                                     Ashely Walker  
                                 Anthony Moore                                     Dalee Chang  
                                 Don Castle                                     Bill Bennett  
                                 Grey Guerrero

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Borba announced the public comment period. No public comment was provided.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Manager Caudillo provided a reminder that Form 700s are due by April 1, 2024.

### CONSENT CALENDAR

General Manager Caudillo referred the Board to Agenda Items #3a – #3b on the Consent Calendar portion of the agenda. A copy of the Minutes of the December 7, 2023, Board Meeting is attached as Agenda Item #3a. A copy of the financial statements is attached as Agenda Item #3b.

Director Corkins moved to approve Items #3a - #3b. Director Kisling seconded and the board unanimously approved the motion.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Consider Appointment of Agency Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary)

General Manager Caudillo reported on the annual appointment of officers.

Director Corkins moved to appoint the following officers:

- Dennis Townsend, Chairman;
- Steve Kisling, Vice Chairman; and
- General Manager Caudillo, Secretary.

Director Leider seconded and the board unanimously approved the motion.

Discussion ensued regarding the board's structure given the withdrawal of Kern-Tulare Water District. Staff was directed to amend the amendment of the existing Joint Powers Agreement at the next meeting of the board of directors.

### Consider Appointment of Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs

General Manager Caudillo reported on the annual appointment of committee chairs and vice chairs.

Director Corkins moved to appoint the following:

- Steve Kisling, Chairman of the Executive Committee;
- Dyson Schneider, Chairman of the Finance Committee;
- Geoffrey Galloway, new appointment to Finance Committee; and
- Bill Bennett, Chairman of the Stakeholder Committee.

Director Leider seconded and the board unanimously approved the motion.

Director Kisling thanked Chairman Borba for his years of service to the GSA and its landowners.

### Consider Approval of Appointment to Stakeholder Committee in the Event of a Vacancy

General Manager Caudillo provided a recommendation. He explained that a past applicant, Mr. Guerrero, was considered but not appointed. He recommended that, in the event of a vacancy in the coming year, Mr. Guerrero be appointed to fill the committee vacancy.

Director Corkins moved and Director Kisling seconded that Mr. Guerrero be appointed to the Stakeholder Committee in the event of a vacancy. The board unanimously approved the motion.

### Review of Proposed Tenth Amended ETGSA Rules and Regulations

General Counsel Mauritson provided a report on the potential Tenth Amended Rules and Regulations. Mrs. Mauritson advised that there will be a joint committee meeting next Thursday, January 18, 2024, to discuss proposed amendments to the Rules and Regulations.

Discussion ensued.

### Report from 4Creeks on ETGSA Accounting and Invoicing

Don Tucker of 4Creeks provided a verbal report on ETGSA accounts and invoicing.

### GOVERNMENTAL AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

#### Report on State Advocacy Efforts

Lobbyist Ashley Walker provided a report. Attached to the Board packet as Agenda Item #5a is a copy of the report.

### STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#### Report on Ongoing ETGSA Outreach Efforts

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on ongoing outreach efforts and upcoming events. A copy of his report is attached to the Board packet as Agenda Item #6a.

### REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

#### Receive Report from the Finance Committee

General Manager Caudillo provided a report, a copy of which is attached to the Board packet as Agenda Item #7a.

### TULE SUBBASIN AND REGIONAL REPORTS AND ITEMS

#### Report on Tule Subbasin Coordination and TH&Co Task Items

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on Tule Subbasin Coordination and TH&Co Task Items. Attached to the Board packet as Agenda Item #8a is a copy of the report.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

[Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]

Number of Potential Cases: Five

The Board of Directors, while in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2), met with General Counsel Aubrey Mauritson regarding five potential items of anticipated litigation.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION

[Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9]

Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella, Inc. v. Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Tulare County Superior Court Case No. VCU302028

The Board of Directors, while in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), met with General Counsel Aubrey Mauritson regarding existing litigation named above.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Report Action Taken in Closed Session Required by Government Code 54957.1

Chairman Borba announced that there was no reportable action from closed session.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Next Regular Meeting – Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the ETGSA Joint Powers Authority shall be held on February 1, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Borba adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rogelio Caudillo, General Manager