



APPROVED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2019

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 9:03 A.M., Hicham Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following MIUGSA Representatives present:

Name	Organization
Hicham Eltal (Chair)	Merced Irrigation District
Ken Elwin	City of Merced
Justin Vinson	City of Atwater
Carlos Valencia	Winton Water and Sanitary District (CSD)
Brenda Wey	Winton Water and Sanitary District (CSD)
Daniel Chavez	Planada Community Services District (CSD)
Cynthia Benavidez	Le Grand Community Services District (CSD)

The following MIUGSA Representatives had an excused absence:

Name	Organization
Stephanie Dietz (Vice Chair)	City of Merced
Jonnie Baptista	City of Merced
Jose Antonio Ramirez	City of Livingston
Bob Giampaoli	Le Grand Community Services District (CSD)

The following Attendees were present:

Jennifer McMaster	Merced Irrigation District, MIUGSA Coordinator
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CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Meeting Minutes October 10, 2018

On motion by Justin Vinson (City of Atwater), seconded by Ken Elwin (City of Merced) the Board unanimously approved the minutes as written.

2. Meeting Minutes December 4, 2018

On motion by Justin Vinson (City of Atwater), seconded by Ken Elwin (City of Merced) the Board unanimously approved the minutes as written.

REPORTS

Chairman Eltal gave an update on the status of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan development progress. Chairman Eltal identified two items that the GSA has been working on for the last several meetings; thresholds for groundwater sustainability and potential sustainability yield for the future.

Justin Vinson and Ken Elwin gave an update on the GSA meeting held December 17, 2018. Justin discussed the proposed maximum use allotment per acre. Ken provided a report regarding the Coordination Committee discussion on prescriptive rights and agricultural historical use versus the city's maximum use.

Chairman Eltal discussed alternatives for groundwater allocation including allocation based on natural yield spread over the entire groundwater basin, or spreading the overall natural yield over irrigated acreage only.

Chairman Eltal discussed coordination between GSA's, two items specifically:

1. Filing for temporary surface water rights for flood water-
 - a. Chairman Eltal recommended that all GSA's work together to apply for a permanent permit to divert flood flows when allowed and needed from the State Water Resources Control Board and also work collectively identifying all potential diversion points. Working collectively as a basin will help reduce potential conflict when water is available.
2. Groundwater credit-
 - a. Chairman Eltal reports that it remains undecided who will be allocated water but all GSA's should use the same model.

Chairman Eltal indicates that these two items should be discussed further, and he intends to bring up at the upcoming Coordination Committee meeting/s.

One member of the public, whose name was not identified, commented that he gathers the Merced Subbasins are going to a credit system with a market. Chairman Eltal replied that would commended if the system is made universal for the basin to make sure the right checks and balances are in place.

ACTIONS

The Board reviewed and considered adoption of the Memorandum of Intent to Coordinate between the Merced Subbasin and Turlock Subbasin (MOI) and authorization to Chairman Eltal to execute the same. On motion by Cynthia Benavidez (Le Grand CSD), seconded by Justin Vinson (City of Atwater), the Board voted unanimously to adopt and grant authorization to Chairman Eltal to execute the MOI.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

None.

CLOSED SESSSION

At 9:20AM, Chairman Eltal announced that the Board would adjourn to closed session to conference with counsel, regarding one (1) matter of potential litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2 & 4) involving the State Water Resources Control Board, Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan and Substitute Environmental Document. There was no public comment on any item listed on the closed session agenda

At 9:20AM, Chairman Eltal convened the closed session with Board members Elwin, Vinson, Valencia, Wey, Chaves, and Benavidez present. At 9:40AM, the Board returned to open session. Chairman Eltal reported that the Board met with counsel in closed session regarding one (1) matter of potential litigation as previously described. The Board received information and provided direction in closed session, but the Board took no action.

ADJOURN

Hicham Eltal (MID) moved to adjourn the meeting. Daniel Chaves (Planada CSD) seconded the motion. MIUGSA Meeting adjourned at 10:01AM.