



**APPROVED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 13, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

At 9:05 A.M., Hicham Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed the following MIUGSA Representatives present:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
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)
Bob Giampaoli	Le Grand Community Services District (CSD)
Stephanie Dietz (Vice Chair)	City of Merced

The following MIUGSA Representatives had an excused absence:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jose Antonio Ramirez	City of Livingston

The following Attendees were present:

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

To accommodate members of the public, report item number two (2) (Discuss status of sustainable allotment and its potential impacts on MIUGSA sustainability, private properties and municipalities, and future groundwater banking and trade) was presented first.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Meeting Minutes: January 16, 2019

On motion by Ken Elwin (City of Merced), seconded by Daniel Chavez (Planada CSD) the Board unanimously approved the minutes as written.

**REPORTS**

Chairman Eltal discussed and presented the status of sustainable groundwater yield, and allocations proposed during the February 25, 2019 GSA Coordination Committee. The discussion covered impact of different scenarios on private properties, municipalities, and overall MIUGSA sustainability. Attendees also discussed groundwater banking and groundwater credit system and in-basin trade.

Chairman Eltal discussed the available sustainable yield and appropriate use based on historical data that could potentially be available for the entire basin. The alternatives for groundwater allocation presented by Chairman Eltal, based on an approximate amount of water to be potentially available for distribution amongst the GSA's include:

1. Distribution by gross acreage, which would allow an equal acre feet per acre allocation for all acreage within the basin.
2. Distribution by overall irrigated area, which would allow an equal acre feet per acre for all irrigated acreage within the basin. Range land would receive zero allocation.
3. Allocate 75% of natural yield to range land, and only allow movement of credits within Merced Subbasin GSA (MSBGSA). This would provide MSBGSA irrigated acreage higher underlying right acre feet per acre than irrigated acres in MID.

Chairman Eltal indicated that MID Advisory Committee at its January 9, 2019 meeting recommended option two (2) and the Merced Subbasins suggested option three (3) at the February 25, 2019 meeting.

There was an extensive discussion amongst the attendees and the GSA members regarding potential negative impacts, and Vice Chair Dietz described such impacts not only on land owners but also the GSA and more importantly the Merced County economy. No action was expected but members of Coordination Committee were given direction to continue engagement with other GSAs before a firm position is taken.

Chairman Eltal discussed and presented the Memorandum prepared by Woodard and Curran updating the GSA's on the status of the GSP progress, and obtaining feedback. Chairman Eltal discussed the projected water budget and the projected conditions baseline and highlighted the summary of groundwater budget assumptions. Chairman Eltal states that the memo does not present a groundwater budget, but rather presents an overall water resources budget for the basin, which included groundwater components..

**ACTIONS**

None.

**BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD**

None.

**CLOSED SESSSION**

None.

**ADJOURN**

Cynthia Benavidez (Le Grand CSD) moved to adjourn the meeting. Ken Elwin (City of Merced) seconded the motion. MIUGSA Meeting adjourned at 10:28AM.