



APPROVED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2020

The Governing Board of the Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MIUGSA) met virtually on the above date pursuant to notice at 9:00 A.M., consistent with temporary authorization to deviate from Brown Act meeting guidelines issued through Executive Order by California Governor Gavin Newsom.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 9:00 A.M., Chair Hicham Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order. MIUGSA Board Coordinator, Jennifer McMaster made an announcement regarding changes that have been made to the Board meeting procedures in order to make good faith efforts to comply with the Governor’s Executive Orders and allow the public the opportunity to observe, participate and comment in the Board’s meeting.

Ms. McMaster stated that staff had not received any emails from members of the public requesting a link to the video portion of the meeting or commenting on any agenda item. Ms. McMaster also informed the public of the procedure for submitting comments during the meeting.

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) |
| Cynthia Benavidez | Le Grand Community Services District (CSD) |
| Daniel Chavez | Planada Community Services District (CSD) |

Roll call showed the following MIUGSA Representatives absent:

| Name | Organization |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Jose Antonio Ramirez | City of Livingston |

CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Meeting Minutes: May 13, 2020

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

REPORTS

Schaelene Rollins, Pando Public Relations provided a review and update regarding outreach efforts related to the development of a fee structure to fund regulatory activities of the Merced Irrigation Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Ms. Rollins reported that the mailers for residential and commercial properties went out in multiple languages and began hitting mailboxes June 1, 2020. Ms. Rollins reported that display ads were published in more than one language to various newspaper outlets and the MIUGSA website was updated to include additional content under the Fee Study tab.

Ms. Rollins reported that MIUGSA has received about a dozen comments related to the fee study, the majority of which expressed concern regarding the implementation of an additional fee and included some confusion related to where the fee was coming from. Responses, including clarification, have been provided. Ms. Rollins discussed the virtual platforms and meeting logistics for the upcoming public fee study workshops.

Catherine Hansford, Hansford Economic Consulting provided an update regarding the status of the fee study. Ms. Hansford provided an overview of each of the fee tables to be included in the study. Ms. Hansford noted that corrections were made to the data contained in the tables, which resulted in an increase to the accumulated expense total for agency staffing. Ms. Hansford discussed the impacts of the increase, estimated revenues and expenses, and the estimated budget for the next five years. Ms. Hansford provided an update on the current project budget and discussed key dates moving forward.

Chair Eltal provided an update regarding the status of the Framework Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Turner Island Water District. Chair Eltal reported that the MOU requires further discussion regarding how to move forward with the implementation of the GSP. Chair Eltal proposed an ad-hoc committee to review the proposed MOU. He added that the recommendations will be forwarded to MIUGSA counterparts at the Merced Subbasin GSA and Turner Island where the remaining challenges would be discussed before taking it to the full Coordination Committee. He ended by stating that the final document has to be ratified and approved by the MIUGSA Board.

Chair Eltal discussed the status of the Department of Water Resources review of the GSP. Chair Eltal reported that comments have been submitted by a number of governmental agencies and grazing ground entities. DWR is anticipated to review all comments to the GSP, then provide

a determination whether the GSP meets the requirements of SGMA within two years from the GSP submittal date.

ACTIONS

None.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

None.

CLOSED SESSSION

None.

ADJOURN

On motion by Cynthia Benavidez (Le Grand CSD), seconded by Justin Vinson (City of Atwater); the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 A.M.