

**MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
January 24, 2011

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

At 3:00 P.M., Chair Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

The sign in sheet showed the following present:

<b>Position/Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chairman/Merced Irrigation District	Hicham Eltal
Vice Chairman/Secretary/ Stevinson Water District	Bob Kelley
Department of Water Resources	Dane Mathis
County of Merced	Kellie Jacobs
Geomatrix	Dave Bean
LeGrand-Athlone Water District	Kole Upton
Chowchilla Water District	Mark Wolfshorndl
Chowchilla Water District	Doug Welch
Merced County Environmental Health	Ron Rowe
East Merced RCD	Cindy Lashbrook
City of Merced	Mike Wegley
Valley Land Alliance	Jean Okuye
Merced County Environmental Health	Bill Peeler

Chair Eltal recognized that at this time there is a quorum.

**ROLL CALL**

See above.

**WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**BOARD ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR**

None

## **DISCUSSION**

1. **Develop a set of deliverables to meet California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program requirements comparable to MAGPI capabilities. (Group Discussion)**

Mr. Eltal started with a brief summary on the history of California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) it was a bill that was presented in 2009 and was called SB x 76 which calls for all bulletin 180 to recognize groundwater basins to monitor wells.

At our last meeting in December 2010 we showed our intent to enter into the program. The deadline was January 1, 2011 to show intent. By January 1, 2012 we need to start reporting to DWR which is when DWR starts reporting to the legislature.

We filed the notice of intent but there are no set rules on how we monitor, each basin has their guidelines so Mr. Eltal wants to cover the program, what is required, and who is willing to participate.

Chowchilla, LeGrand-Athlone, Stevinson and Merced are all willing to participate in the program. The cities are not required to participate because of security purposes, so all municipal wells cannot but used. If the City or County has monitoring wells that would like to share then we will be able to collect the information. Mr. Wegley stated that the City of Merced has some monitoring wells.

Mr. Eltal stated that we would be contacting the City of Atwater and Livingston to see if they are will to participate if they have monitoring wells.

Mr. Mathis stated that DWR created the guidelines in case there is a portion of a basin that is not being monitor, which DWR when then assume monitoring. DWR provided the guidelines to the entities as a reference document. These are not rules, they are just an outline.

Mr. Eltal wanted to cover the different monitoring plans. He believes that option (B) Basins with 1,000-10,000 acre feet/yard groundwater pumping per 100 square miles area would fit our plan. Merced basin is at approximately 500,000 acres. We have about 900-1,000 square mile basin. We will have to build a case to show DWR the best way to monitor our basin because high concentration in areas where more groundwater is pumped. Mr. Kelly believes that only providing two wells within the 64,000 square miles do not show adequate research. Mr. Mathis acknowledged that this information was provided by extensive research. Mr. Eltal said it will give the basic information for groundwater within the area.

The Water-Level Measurements were then cover by Mr. Eltal. This covers the frequency of measurement which is based on high or low hydraulic conductivity. This will then explain how often the monitoring will need to be complete. Mr. Eltal stated that Merced's groundwater management plan already requires that testing be complete twice per year. He recommends that we follow the established plan which will make it easier

for the agencies to pursue. If there are any troubled areas then we can provide additional monitoring to that area.

DWR is also feeling their way on how to provide adequate monitoring to different areas. Mr. Mathis from DWR stated the water code refers to where there is an established water agency that is already meeting the goals of the water code, and then we would defer to those local programs. DWR would not be asking to go beyond that.

Mr. Rowe had a question for DWR; for the most part MAGPI focused on bulletin 118 Merced subjacent, so your expatiation is that we stay within those boundaries because within this group we do not have the ability to go outside of our jurisdiction. Mr. Mathis has seen it in other submittals that there is a monitoring entity that is going outside of their jurisdiction but ideally you can stay within your basin/jurisdiction.

Mr. Eltal stated that Turlock is developing a program north of the Merced River. The Chowchilla has one south of the Merced River, in Madera County. Each area is taking care of their basin. Cindy Lashbrook wanted to know about the Turlock/Hilmar area. Mr. Eltal stated that they are establishing a group called Turlock Groundwater Basin Association, which MID is a member of because of surface water in the area.

Mr. Eltal then covered the guidelines on how to identify wells, State Well Numbering System. Each well will be identified by township, range and section then divided into 40 acre lots. If anyone needs help with identifying wells we can work with them.

A map of only Merced Irrigation District, which is about one-third of the basin, was shown by Mr. Eltal. MID divided the map into drainage areas from the groundwater perspective, this is how we measure our perch water table. I don't know if DWR is interested in this information. Mr. Mathis stated the department would be interested in the information but it might not be meeting the goals of CASGEM.

A grant from DWR allowed us to tie all public wells into one database. Our basin is fortunate to have joined all of our reference points tied to main sea level. We will be able to make available all the information that the GPS provides.

Mr. Eltal stated there is still a large portion that is not covered because the participation of Turner Island or Lone Tree has not been established. We will be working with them in hopes to gain their support. However, Mr. Eltal does not know if they have the equipment to contribute.

If USGS is monitoring wells within our basin that are difficult to monitor, will it be possible to use their information. According to Mary, the name of the monitoring entity would need to be included. Mr. Upton wants to know if we can request the information from USGS. Mr. Mathis stated that USGS is a cooperator to the department. Mr. Mathis stated monitoring plan can include department data but does not know how accurate the information is.

Mr. Eltal believes that it would be a good idea to establish a technical committee to further develop a plan with Dane Mathis from DWR. Ms. Lashbrook agrees with Mr.

Eltal. The selected technical committee is Bob Kelly from Stevinson Water District, Doug Welch from Chowchilla Water District, Ron Rowe from Merced County, Mike Wegley from City of Merced and Mr. Eltal from Merced Irrigation District.

Mr. Upton made a motion to accept and move the technical committee.

Mr. Kelly seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next MAGPI meeting will be Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 2:00 P.M.

### **ADJOURN**

Mr. Upton moved to adjourn.

Mr. Wegley seconded the motion.

Motion to adjourn approved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 P.M.