

MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 18, 2010

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 2:00 P.M., Chair Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

The sign in sheet showed the following present:

Position/Organization	Name
Chairman/Merced Irrigation District	Hicham Eltal
Vice Chairman/Secretary/ Stevinson Water District	Bob Kelley
City of Atwater	Jeff, Mondloch
East Merced Resource Conservation Dist.	Cindy Lashbrook
Merced County Environmental Health	Ron Rowe
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Tom Lutterman
City of Merced	Mike Wegley
LeGrand-Athlone Water District	Kole Upton
Merced County Farm Bureau	Amanda Carvajal
Winton Water & Sanitary District	Johnnie Baptista
Chowchilla Water District	Doug Welch
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Ernie Taylor
UC Merced	
San Joaquin Valley Conserving	

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

Acceptance of Draft Minutes by Consensus: Board Meeting of April 29, 2010

Mr. Kelly moved to accept the draft minutes from the meetings of April 29, 2010.

Mr. Upton seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

REPORTS

1. Water Status Report:

Mr. ElTal presented a groundwater elevations and consumption report for various agencies. Mr. ElTal started off by stating it has been a mild summer so we should see lower consumption. Atwater, Livingston, LeGrand, Meadowbrook consumptions are on track for this time of the year; while Merced and Winton are slightly on the high side.

Merced Irrigation District groundwater annual budgets about 13,000 acre feet any given year. At this point of the year it is at 5,000 ac-ft. which should around up to 8,000-9,000 ac-ft by the end of the season.

Static Levels remain the same, no new information because tests are completed twice a year during spring and fall. Most recent information was provided at the last meeting, April 29, 2010.

Mr. Kelley will be providing an updated data of wells in Stevinson Water District as soon as the engineers finish. The information is expected to be provided within a short period of time.

2. DWR Status Report on items pertinent to MAGPI's activities (DWR):

Mr. ElTal attended a Farm Bureau Meeting in Fresno on SBx7 6 Workshop. Mr. ElTal asked Mr. Taylor to elaborate. Mr. Taylor stated there was an attempt to schedule a meeting with Merced, Mariposa and Madera on August 30, 2010 after the workshop in Fresno but Madera was not able to attend. For this reason a meeting has not been scheduled.

There will be three workshops within our area scheduled on August 30, 2010 in Fresno. Watsonville on August 31, 2010 and in Sacramento on September 2, 2010.

Ms. Lashbrook questioned why Merced couldn't work with Stanislaus on IRWM efforts, since we have worked so well with them in the past. Mr. ElTal discussed that DWR acknowledges that there will be cooperation between the parties, but each will have their own IRWMP groups.

Mr. ElTal stated that we have sent an email to Mariposa IRWMP stating we will participate in their group, since MID has vital interests in Mariposa.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Approve revised Merced Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) boundary to include the tail end of the Merced River Watershed (Hicham ElTal):

DWR conditional approved Merced for the entire basin and watershed, a portion of Merced River's Watershed mainly within Merced County. DWR recognizes the three M's (Merced, Mariposa and Madera) will continue working together regarding stranded areas of land, but will also work independently on their basins/watersheds.

Merced IRWMP Merced River watershed areas should be extended to include all areas north of the river its confluence with San Joaquin River to the west. This is necessary to include a stranded area that was included in CenCal property IRWMP, which would be separated when Mariposa IRWMP is developed. It is expected to be overlapped with Turlock IRWMP which is acceptable and we will be cooperating with such IRWMPs.

Mr. Rowe made a motion to include lower region of Merced River Watershed into the Merced Integrated Regional Water Management (MIRWM).

Mr. Kelly seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION

1. Review SBx7 6 (CASGEM) and its potential impacts on MAGPI area (Hicham ElTal & DWR):

SBx7 6 has changed to CASGEM is short for California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring. By passing the bill, the Legislature established a statewide program to collect groundwater elevations, facilitate collaboration between local monitoring entities and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and to report this information to the public.

Groundwater monitoring agencies is voluntary; however California is looking for a groundwater monitoring entity to represent a region/basin. DWR will assist prospective monitoring entities to meet SBx7 6 requirements. If no one volunteers, DWR assumes monitoring.

Mr. ElTal reviewed Monitoring Entities authorizes by the law. He stated Voluntary Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring Association formed pursuant to the provisions of SBx7 6 would fit MAGPI.

There are specific schedules to follow within the SBx7 6. On or before January 1, 2011, entities seeking to assume groundwater monitoring function must have notified DWR. On or before January 1, 2012, monitoring entities begin reporting of seasonal groundwater elevation measurement data. By January 1, 2012, DWR is to report its findings to the Governor and Legislature and thereafter in years ending in 5 and 0.

Mr. Kelley wanted to know the intentions of DWR's plans for streamlining information, because he would not be interested in paper. Mr. Lutterman stated that DWR is looking into a website for streamlining information straight to the public, because this tends to

help reduce public requests of information. Mr. ElTal stated all this takes time and funding, which DWR is still working on.

Mr. ElTal recommended that this item needs to be scheduled for a separate meeting once DWR provides more information about the program. That meeting MAGPI would take an action as to which setup MAGPI should assume for monitoring. Mr. ElTal recommends using the “umbrella” setup, where agencies/individuals monitor their own wells and report to one entity. The next MAGPI meeting would also decide on notifying DWR of MAGPI’s intent to join CASGEM, which should likely be in December 2010.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. ElTal brought to the board’s attention the ongoing State Regional Water Quality Control Board intents in expanding Irrigation Land Regulatory Program to groundwater issue as well.

A meeting will be held on September 9, 2010 from 6:00-9:00pm at the Ag Center in Modesto, California for those who are interested in obtaining further information regarding this issue.

NEXT MEETING

The next MAGPI meeting will be Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 2:00 PM.

ADJOURN

Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn.

Mr. Upton seconded the motion.

Motion to adjourn approved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:52 P.M.