

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 30, 2017**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 1:01 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Mayor Pro-Tem Parra joined the meeting at 1:09 p.m. via teleconference (Monterey Marriott Hotel - Lobby, 350 Calle Principal, Monterey, CA 93940)

City Staff Present: Interim City Manager/City Clerk Davis, Public Works Director Weisser, City Attorneys Wolfe and Linder, City Engineer Peters

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no public presentations.

UPDATE REGARDING SOUTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (“SKGSA”) BOUNDARIES AND SKGSA ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE; PROVIDE DIRECTION REGARDING FINAL BOUNDARIES TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES; REVIEW AND CONSIDER CONSEQUENCES OF OVERLAP AMONG GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES WITHIN THE KINGS SUBBASIN

City Engineer Peters explained several recent developments regarding the SKGSA. The cities of Fowler, Kingsburg, Selma, Parlier, Sanger, had filed with the State of California to become the SKGSA, with boundaries that included the Sphere of Influence (SOI) of each agency. Also, the Del Rey and Caruthers Community Service Districts were allowed to join, at their request. The SKGSA JPA formed a technical advisory committee and assigned two members, Karnig Kazarian and Josh Rogers (Sanger) to attend multi-agency GSA coordination meetings. The fact that there was a boundary overlap between Central Kings GSA and SKGSA has been a major topic of discussion at those meetings. Fresno County representatives that were present stated that if the overlap is not resolved by the State’s June 30th deadline, the County will step in and file to become the GSA for both agencies. The SKGSA decided that since the overlap couldn’t be resolved with CID, the cities would pull back to their city limit boundaries, and approved that change at a meeting held earlier in the week. The SKGSA also asked the S.K.F. Sanitation District board to hold a special meeting, that was held earlier that day, to consider joining. The S.K.F. board ultimately did not approve becoming part of the SKGSA. In another development, the Selma City Council held a meeting after the SKGSA JPA meeting where it was approved to pull back to the city limits to eliminate the overlap. The Selma City Council adopted a resolution to leave the SKGSA and join the Central Kings GSA. Caruthers will be doing the same. The SKGSA’s JPA will be holding a meeting later that day to discuss and consider Selma’s withdrawal, as there is a 60 day notice requirement.

City Attorney Wolfe provided clarification on some of the issues that have been discussed in the GSA, pointing to a memorandum he prepared. The Council's direction is needed on the options: Continue with the original plan and include the SOI in the boundaries, or change the boundaries to include just the city limits. He noted that the original plan had changed with Selma and Caruthers deciding to leave the SKGSA, due to pulling back from the SOI boundaries. Mike Linder spoke about SGMA requirements and the ability of the County to file as the GSA if there is an overlap between two agencies. He noted that there will be further boundary changes on GSA's after June 30th.

It was discussed that it may not be in the City's best interest to have the County become the GSA. City Engineer Peters said that the annexation process and determining which GSA the property belongs to, could become an issue. During meetings with the other GSA's, discussion included the formation of a group to look into and give impartial decisions regarding annexation and other issues.

Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, stated that the County would prefer not becoming a GSA, but would do so to resolve the overlap issue. The County concurs with the decision that the SKGSA's boundaries will extend just to the city limits.

David Elias, Selma City Manager, stated the Selma City Council adopted a resolution to withdraw from the SKGSA due to the JPA's decision to pull back the boundaries to the city limits, as it will eliminate the ability to negotiate with CID to resolve the overlap. They have made arrangements with CID to add the City of Selma into the Central Kings GSA boundaries.

Questions were asked about the affect of pulling back from the SOI's in respect to the annexation process. Mr. Jimenez, stated that his understanding is that the City has a cooperative agreement with CID that specifies that it would not challenge annexations during the terms of the agreement. He did not know how the agreement would affect SOI expansion, but noted that an expansion would be subject to terms of an MOU agreement between the City and County. City Attorney Wolfe said that his recollection is that if the City mitigates environmental impacts on future SOI expansions and paid any necessary fees, there should not be opposition from CID on SOI expansion.

After discussion, the consensus was to move forward with the SKGSA JPA's plan to pull back their boundaries to the city limits and eliminate the overlap with Central Kings GSA, acknowledging that Selma and Caruthers will be withdrawing from SKGSA.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Rodriquez made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian to adjourn. The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote, and the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p. m.