

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 24, 2018, at 6:00 P.M.**

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Chairman Jerry Prieto, Jr. – Fresno Irrigation District
Director Rudy Hernandez – Biola Community Service District
Director Steve Pickens – Bakman Water Company
Director Karl Kienow – Garfield Water District
Alternate Director Michael Carbajal – City of Fresno
Director Jose Flores – City of Clovis
Alternate Director Buddy Mendes – County of Fresno

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Director Lee Brand – City of Fresno
Director Brian Pacheco – County of Fresno

MEMBER STAFF PRESENT

Executive Officer Gary R. Serrato – Fresno Irrigation District
Legal Counsel Bryan Martin (sitting in for Kevin Dale)
Advisory Committee Chairman Luke Serpa – City of Clovis
Technical Subcommittee Chairman Bill Stretch – Fresno Irrigation District
Administrative/Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman Lisa Koehn
Membership/Outreach/Communications Subcommittee Chairman Brandy Swisher –
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
Fiscal Officer DeAnn Hailey – Fresno Irrigation District
Administrator Adam Claes – Fresno Irrigation District
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group Representative Ron Samuelian
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe – Fresno Irrigation District

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Prieto called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

There were no changes to future meetings.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (for items not on agenda) – 3 Minutes Maximum Per Person, 10 Minutes Maximum Per Subject

There were no public comments.

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POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Any Board Member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter. [FPPC §87105]

None stated.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes – March 22, 2018 – Action Item

There were no corrections or edits to the minutes from March 22, 2018.

M/S/C (Kienow/Hernandez) That the Board of Directors approved the minutes from the March 22, 2018, meeting by the following vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Hernandez, Prieto, Jr., Carbajal, Flores, Mendes; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

b. Water Conditions Update

Mr. Claes provided the Board with an updated water/snow conditions report for both the Central (San Joaquin River) and Southern (Kings River) Sierra Snowpack. Comparison of previous years in relation to this year's snowpack was provided. Even though it was an above average rainfall/snowfall for March, year-to-date totals are still below average (approximately 70% of average). As of May 23, Millerton Lake's storage is 455,800 acre-feet and Pine Flat's storage is 884,000 acre-feet. The Bureau of Reclamation's estimate for CVP deliveries are 85%.

c. North Kings GSA Timeline and Milestones Update

Mr. Claes provided the Board with the GSP development and coordination schedule. The goal is to complete the draft GSP by January 2019 (DWR deadline is January 31, 2020). Once the draft Plan is complete, it will be made public for a comment period prior to submitting it to the DWR.

d. Kings Subbasin Coordination Update

Mr. Samuelian updated the Board on the following items:

- MOA for dispute resolution and grant funding
 - Adopted by three GSAs, scheduled for adoption by remaining GSAs.

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- Grant Funding Contract in two – three months
 - Match waiver approve
 - Eligible costs back to July 2017
- Initiating formal data sharing agreement
- Considering new coordinated tasks
 - Confined Aquifer boundary flows
 - Data management system
 - Water budget
- Initial tasks focused on storage change
- Goal to reach agreement on initial estimates of amount to be corrected and GSA responsibility
- Identified base period
- Evaluated five methodology alternatives and iterations

Chairman Prieto introduced Mr. Michael Carbajal from the City of Fresno. Mr. Carbajal is the Interim Public Utilities Assistant Director. Mr. Carbajal was sworn in as the new Alternate Director prior to the meeting.

e. Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Serpa noted that Dwight Miller from Biola Community Service District has retired. Mr. Miller was the chairperson of the Membership/Outreach/Communications Subcommittee. To replace Mr. Miller, it was agreed during the Advisory Committee meeting held on May 18 that Ms. Brandy Swisher from the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District would be the new chairperson of the Membership/Outreach subcommittee. Also, during the meeting the Advisory Committee discussed the undertaking of a replacement for the executive officer position. Mr. Serrato will be retiring at the end of the year and the Committee felt it is important to have a person in that position prior to Mr. Serrato's retirement. Chairman Prieto formed an ad hoc committee consisting of himself, Director Flores, and staff. The ad hoc committee will develop a job description, compensation, and succession plan.

i. Technical Subcommittee Update

Mr. Stretch noted the subcommittee is responsible for all things technical but that its main focus is the preparation of the GSP. The group's internal deadline for the draft GSP is January 2019. Provost & Pritchard Consulting continues to guide the group through each of the sections:

- Plan Area (draft complete)
- Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (draft complete)

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- GW Conditions (draft almost complete)
- Water Budget (starting research)
- Sustainable Management Criteria (outline of requirements – draft criteria for water levels)
- Monitoring Network (draft complete)
- Projects and Actions (initiate soon)
- Plan Implementation (initiate soon)

Mr. Stretch outlined the proposed selection on the monitoring network:

- Two wells per township/range
- Wells with historical data
- Wells with known well completion reports
- Wells that are spatially distributed

Fresno Irrigation District stores well monitoring records from the 1920s, when FID was established. FID Staff monitors wells two times per year district-wide.

The subcommittee has worked on the Sustainable Management Criteria for the last several months; however, nothing has been finalized. Mr. Stretch provided slides of three different areas with four or five alternatives.

ii. Administrative/Fiscal Subcommittee Update

Ms. Koehn reviewed the Administrative/Fiscal Subcommittee and the Finance Committee. The subcommittee last met on April 10. The Finance Committee met on May 16 to review the 2018-2019 Budget prior to bringing it before the Board. The budget did not include funds for the executive officer position.

iii. Membership/Outreach/Communications Subcommittee Update

Mr. Serrato stated his appreciation for Mr. Miller's time and work as chairperson of the subcommittee. Ms. Brandy Swisher was appointed as the new chairperson of the subcommittee at the recent Advisory Committee meeting. Past GSA Outreach activities were reviewed, as well as plans for upcoming community outreach projects such as including information in utility bill mailings. Ms. Swisher noted that the NKGSA website can be viewed in four different languages (English, Spanish, Hmong, and Punjabi with the possibility of others being added later).

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**f. Request for Letter of Support for Community Engagement Activities
(Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability) – Action Item**

Ms. Amanda Monaco explained the purpose of the organization she represents. The Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability requested a letter of support from the NKGSA Board for a grant they are seeking. Chairman Prieto and Mr. Serrato explained it is vital that the message being presented on behalf of the NKGSA is consistent with the NKGSA Outreach Plan. After some general discussion and questions by the Board, legal counsel suggested that Staff meet with representatives from the Leadership Counsel and clarify that the NKGSA has and will perform its own outreach, and that the message of the Leadership Counsel will be consistent with the Outreach Plan prior to drafting the letter of support. It was decided to table the vote and bring it back for discussion/adoption at the June Board meeting.

M/S/C (Carbajal/Kienow) That the Board of Directors approved to table the vote and bring back to the Board the requested letter of support for the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability at the next meeting by the following vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Hernandez, Prieto, Jr., Carbajal, Kienow, Flores, Mendes; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

2. LEGAL MATTERS

a. Memorandum of Agreement by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Within the Kings Subbasin on 1) Grant Funds Sharing; and 2) Dispute Resolution – Action Item

Mr. Martin stated the document has been finalized and is ready for signature. Mr. Serrato reviewed that the MOA is designed to allow the seven GSAs to work through potential issues such as boundary flows or how the overdraft is divided. Paula Landis (formerly with DWR and the California Water Commission) was selected as the mediator with Bill Luce (formerly with the Bureau of Reclamation) selected as the alternate. Each GSA is able to receive grant funding only if they agree to sign the MOA. The MOA does not prevent any of the seven parties pursuing legal action once the mediation process has been exhausted. All seven GSA member's attorneys participated in the development of the MOA.

M/S/C (Pickens/Flores) That the Board of Directors approved the Memorandum of Agreement by the following vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Hernandez, Prieto, Jr., Carbajal, Kienow, Flores, Mendes; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

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3. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a. Approval of Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2018 – Action Item

Ms. Hailey recapped the Finance Committee meeting from May 16, 2018.

M/S/C (Hernandez/Flores) That the Board of Directors approved the Financial Committee meeting minutes of May 16, 2018, by the following vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Hernandez, Kienow, Prieto, Jr., Carbajal, Flores, Mendes; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

b. Expense Report for March and April 2018 – Action Item

Ms. Hailey reviewed the expense report; there were no questions/comments from the Board.

M/S/C (Mendes/Pickens) That the Board of Directors approved the March through April 2018 Expense Report as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Hernandez, Prieto, Jr., Carbajal, Kienow, Flores, Mendes; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

c. Financial Statements as of April 30, 2018 – Action Item

Ms. Hailey reviewed the financial statements and supporting documents for April 30, 2018.

M/S/C (Flores/Carbajal) That the Board of Directors approved the Financial Statements as of April 30, 2018 as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Hernandez, Prieto, Jr., Carbajal, Kienow, Flores, Mendes; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

d. Proposed Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget – Action Item

Mr. Serrato reminded the Board that the NKGSA budget runs from July 1 to June 30. Ms. Koehn reviewed the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018/2019. The participation percentages for each agency was also included. It was noted that Staff waits for approval from the Chancellor's office of California State University, Fresno (CSUF) before CSUF can participate in the NKGSA.

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M/S/C (Kienow/Hernandez) That the Board of Directors approved the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Hernandez, Prieto, Jr., Carbajal, Kienow, Flores, Mendes; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Mr. Serrato stated the North Fork Kings GSA held a Proposition 218 election (\$10 per acre increase in assessment) which overwhelmingly passed. McMullin Area GSA will be holding their Proposition 218 Election in June (proposed \$19 per acre increase in assessment).

While in Sacramento attending the 2018 Spring ACWA Conference, Mr. Serrato was able to have a discussion with Samuel Boland-Brien from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Mr. Boland-Brien's job is to oversee SGMA for the SWRCB. The coordinated committee will be meeting with Mr. Boland-Brien on June 8.

Along with Bernard Jimenez and Ron Samuelian, Mr. Serrato participated in a panel discussion hosted by the Building Industry Association.

5. DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Pickens – none

Director Kienow – none

Director Hernandez – none

Director Prieto – none

Alternate Director Carbajal – none

Director Flores – none

Alternate Director Mendes – stated that the North Fork Kings GSA passed a Proposition 218 election implementing an assessment of \$10 per acre. Alternate Director Mendes is concerned about harmful clean-up legislation being developed in the next few years by people not happy on how the groundwater sustainability process has been progressing.

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6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion or action, Chairman Prieto adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Gary R. Serrato, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer