



Policy No: NKGSA – 2020-001  
Policy Title: Support and Endorsement Policy  
Board Approval Date: February 27, 2020

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction to the Executive Officer (EO) of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NKGSA) when evaluating requests by organizations for letters of support, endorsement of programs and/or other extrinsic requests located within the NKGSA boundary or which could affect the NKGSA.

## **Background**

The NKGSA covers the northeast portion of the Kings Groundwater Sub-basin in Fresno County. It is one of seven groundwater sustainability agencies within the Kings Sub-basin.

A Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) establishes the NKGSA governance and the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Plan (NKGSP) provides the roadmap for how the NKGSA will reach long term sustainability. Combined, the two documents provide the framework and management strategies for achieving and maintaining groundwater sustainability within the NKGSA plan area.

## **Rationale for Policy**

Organizations will often as part of a grant process be required to submit letters of support from groundwater sustainability agencies in the area of a proposed project. As the exclusive groundwater sustainability agency responsible for achieving and maintaining groundwater sustainability within the NKGSA boundaries the NKGSA will need to determine whether the organization's request is consistent with the adopted NKGSP. A process must be identified to evaluate these requests.

## **Policy**

### **Requests for Endorsement or Agency Participation.**

It is recommended that organizations requesting letters of support from, or the endorsement of, the NKGSA submit their requests via mail or e-mail to the Executive Officer of the NKGSA a minimum of two weeks prior to the deadline for response. Prior to contacting the Executive Officer, requesting organizations must first self-evaluate how the request is consistent with the adopted NKGSP and purpose of the NKGSA JPA. Requests that are determined not to be consistent with the adopted NKGSP or NKGSA JPA by the EO will not receive support. Organizations requesting support shall be in good standing with the NKGSA and all of its members, participating entities and interested parties to receive support.

Requesting organizations are required to provide an Executive Summary or short narrative that demonstrates the proposal's consistency, and at a minimum includes the following information where applicable:

- What is being requested from the NKGSA, (i.e. letter of support, participation, endorsement, etc.).
- Contact information of the person responsible for the project or activity.
- The budget for the proposed project or activity, the funding source of the proposed project or activity, and the funding amount being requested.
- List of coordinating organizations.
- List of all competing organizations within or in close proximity of the NKGSA boundary.
- Description of project or activity.
- Location of project or activity and benefited groups.
- Periods or dates of when the proposed project or activity is expected to occur.
- Anticipated outcome(s) of the proposed project or activity.
- How does the project or activity assist in meeting the groundwater sustainability goals and measurable objectives as outlined in the NKGSP for the applicable groundwater sustainability indicators.
- If request is for an ongoing or continuation project or activity, description of previous results.

Programs, projects and other activities that are determined by the EO to be consistent with the adopted NKGSP and NKGSA JPA will be eligible to receive NKGSA support. However, the NKGSA reserves the right to supplement, alter, amend, or otherwise change the basic criteria contained in this policy document as it continues to develop its planning process. Copies of signed letters of support will be provided to the NKGSA Board at the next scheduled meeting of the NKGSA Board of Directors. Copies of the request, supplemental information and EO decision on the request will be kept on file with the NKGSA for a minimum of three years, 36 months.

### **Appeal Process.**

Requests for support which are denied by the Executive Officer in accordance with this Policy may be appealed in writing to the NKGSA Advisory Committee, which will review and provide further direction to the Executive Officer as appropriate. The NKGSA Advisory Committee may uphold the decision by the EO or override the decision and direct the EO to issue a letter of support. If the NKGSA Advisory Committee upholds the denial, the requestor can appeal to the NKGSA Board of Directors.