

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 22, 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 Tommy Esqueda – City of Fresno
Alternate Director Bernard Jimenez – County of Fresno

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Director Lee Brand – City of Fresno
Director Brian Pacheco – County of Fresno
Director Jose Flores – City of Clovis

MEMBER STAFF PRESENT

Executive Officer Gary R. Serrato – Fresno Irrigation District
Legal Counsel Bryan Martin (colleague of 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 Dwight Miller – Biola Community Service District
Fiscal Officer DeAnn Hailey – Fresno Irrigation District
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe – Fresno Irrigation District

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

REVIEW AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

There are 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 – January 25, 2018 – Action Item

There were no corrections or edits to the minutes of January 25, 2018.

M/S/C (Hernandez/Esqueda) That the Board of Directors approved the minutes from the September 28, 2017, meeting by the following vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Hernandez, Prieto, Jr., Esqueda, Jimenez; Nays – 0; Absent – Flores; Abstain – 0)

b. Water Conditions Update

Mr. Serrato provided the Board with an updated water/snow conditions report for both the Central (San Joaquin River) and Southern (Kings River) Sierra Snowpack. Even though it was an above average rainfall/snowfall for March, year-to-date totals are still below average. As of March 20, Millerton Lake's current storage is 344,800 acre-feet and Pine Flat's current storage is 555,000 acre-feet. The Bureau of Reclamation's recalculated estimate for CVP deliveries went from 30% to 60%. The upcoming warmer storm is expected to quickly melt the lower elevation snow.

c. North Kings GSA Timeline and Milestones Update

Mr. Stretch 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 comments prior to submitting it to the DWR. The seven GSAs continue to work on the mediation agreement.

d. Kings Subbasin Coordination Update

Mr. Serrato updated the Board on the coordination agreement between the seven Kings River Subbasin groups. Discussion among the group also includes boundary flows. The Kings Subbasin will be working with the neighboring basins, including the Madera Subbasin and the Westside Subbasin as required by SGMA. The Coordination Group

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now meets twice a month. The Group is also discussing the development of the Data Management System and where the data will be housed. One option being proposed would be the Kings River Conservation District where the current model is being housed.

e. Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Serpa reviewed the key points from the March 9, 2018, Advisory Committee meeting. The primary points of discussion at that meeting were the draft Public Outreach Plan and the subcommittee updates.

i. Technical Subcommittee Update

Mr. Stretch noted the subcommittee consisting of 15 – 20 members from different agencies continue to meet monthly. Currently the subcommittee is working on how the monitoring of groundwater will be handled. The group is making good progress on developing a plan; there are only nine months remaining to complete the draft GSP. The subcommittee is working on the boundary flows. The NKGSA is bordered by three other GSAs, McMullin Area, Central Kings, and Kings River East. To date, the subcommittee has completed the following chapters: plan areas, hydrological conceptual model, groundwater conditions, and the monitoring network. The chapters remaining are: water budget, sustainable management criteria, project and action, and plan implementation.

ii. Administrative/Fiscal Subcommittee Update

Mr. Serrato stated the committee will now work on the budget for the next fiscal year. Mr. Serrato suggested as the chairman that Chairman Prieto be a member of the finance committee. Chairman Prieto selected Director Kienow to also serve on the committee. Director Kienow accepted the position with Mr. Serrato stating he will schedule a meeting for the committee members and Staff.

iii. Membership/Outreach/Communications Subcommittee Update

Mr. Miller reviewed the Audience Overview Chart for the NKGSA Website. The Chart was broken down by Users/Sessions/Duration/Pages.

f. Public Outreach Plan – Action Item

The final draft of the NKGSA Public Outreach Plan (NKGSA-POP) was presented to the Board. Mr. Miller provided an overview of the NKGSA-POP and thanked the members of the Subcommittee who were instrumental in developing it. The purpose of the NKGSA-POP is to provide a high-level overview of near and long-term outreach strategies; describes the core tools and tactics that support communication and engagement with the public and stakeholders; and support delivery of clear and

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consistent messaging about SGMA and the NKGSA. The NKGSA-POP described using comment cards, presentations, and sign-in sheets to be connected with the public and use newsletters, brochures, fact sheets, flyers, utility bill inserts, news releases and other publications as outreach materials. Possible venues to connect with the public would be board meetings, advisory committee meetings, and GSA meetings. Prior to the draft Plan being submitted to DWR in January 2020, it is crucial that the NKGSA solicit public input at public informational meetings. Mr. Miller reviewed the timeframe of deadlines for submission of documents and outreach meetings/publications. The Plan requires a 60-day comment period which will be held starting in August 2019 with the final draft being submitted to DWR in December 2019.

M/S/C (Jimenez/Hernandez) That the Board of Directors approved the draft Outreach Plan by the following vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Hernandez, Prieto, Jr., Esqueda, Kienow, Jimenez; Nays – 0; Absent – Flores; Abstain – 0)

2. LEGAL MATTERS

a. Kings Subbasin Dispute Resolution Agreement Update

Mr. Martin updated the Board on the dispute resolution. The language is being finalized and the resolution is being circulated among the other GSAs. The final draft is expected to be ready by the next Board meeting. Two independent mediators are being considered as a consultant to work with the seven Kings Subbasin agencies should any disputes arise.

3. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a. Expense Report for January and February 2018 – Action Item

Ms. Hailey presented the expense report for January through February 2018 . At the time of the report, there were no outstanding payables or receivables.

M/S/C (Kienow/Bakman) That the Board of Directors approved the Expense Report as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Hernandez, Kienow, Prieto, Jr., Esqueda, Jimenez; Nays – 0; Absent – Flores; Abstain – 0)

b. Financial Statements as of February 28, 2018 – Action Item

Ms. Hailey reviewed the financial statements for July 2017 through February 2018.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 22, 2018, at 6:00 P.M.**

M/S/C (Jimenez/Hernandez) That the Board of Directors approved the Financial Statements as of February 28, 2018 as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Hernandez, Prieto, Jr., Esqueda, Kienow, Jimenez; Nays – 0; Absent – Flores; Abstain – 0)

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Mr. Serrato stated he has been participating and attending several workshops/ presentations. One recent meeting was for the State Water Resources Control Board staff. Discussions centered on definition of adjudication, when will the State Board become involved, and remedies if one subbasin GSA is not participating in good faith. Another meeting was held in Merced for the California Partnership of the Central Valley. Several GSAs were present with Sarge Green from the California State University, Fresno serving as moderator.

5. DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Pickens - none

Director Kienow – none

Director Hernandez – none

Director Prieto – stated while at a meeting for the Farm Bureau, a representative from San Luis Obispo County talked about groundwater within San Luis Obispo County becoming a public trust resource. The initiative is looking to be put on the November 2018 San Luis Obispo County ballot. Chairman Prieto has informed Supervisor Buddy Mendes about this issue. Chairman Prieto believes this would have a negative effect as it relates to SGMA.

Alternate Director Esqueda – none

Director Flores – absent

Alternate Director Jimenez – stated that the County GSA meetings were narrowed down to include a representative from each GSA within the County instead of the earlier wider-range of agencies, individuals, and organizations. Future discussions will include regional and coordination issues.

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6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion or action, Chairman Prieto adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Gary R. Serrato, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer