



AGENDA
NKGSA Advisory Committee Meeting
August 14, 2020, 1:30 PM

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DUE TO COVID-19

Given the current Shelter-in-Place Order covering the State of California and the Social Distance Guidelines issued by Federal, State, and Local Authorities, the NKGSA is implementing the following changes to participate in and provide public comment for all NKGSA Advisory Committee meetings until notified otherwise. There will not be a physical location available for the public to participate in the meeting.

- The meeting will be webcast and accessed at:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/617839573>
- **You can also dial in using your phone.**
United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3112](tel:+15713173112)
Access Code: 617-839-573

Written Comments

- Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments via email at northkingsgsa@gmail.com up to one (1) hour before the meeting. You will need to provide: Meeting date, agenda item number, name, email and comment (please limit to 300 words or 3 minutes). Please include: PUBLIC COMMENT in the subject for the email.
- Your item will be read onto the record during the public comment portion when the item is heard. Any portion of your comment extending past three (3) minutes may not be read aloud due to time restrictions but will be made part of the record of proceedings.
- Please be aware that any public comments received that do not specify a particular agenda item will be read aloud during the general public comment portion of the agenda.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes from July 10, 2020 Meeting
3. Receive – Basin Coordination Update (Samuelian)
4. Financial Update (Chauhan)
 - a. Member Agency Invoices
5. GSA Policies (Chauhan)
 - a. Discussion and consideration of future policies for the NKGSA.
6. Executive Officer Update (Chauhan)
 - a. GSP Public Comment Update
 - b. Member Agency Responsibility Update
 - c. External Affairs Update
 - d. Representative Monitoring Network Update
 - i. Discuss outreach to owners of representative monitoring network
 - ii. Discuss status of representative monitoring network wells
 - e. Miscellaneous
7. Workgroup Updates and Actions
8. Public Comments
9. Advisory Committee Member Comments
10. Adjourn
11. Future Meetings:
 - a. September 11, 2020
 - b. October 9, 2020
 - c. November 11, 2020

MINUTES

(Preliminary – Subject to Revision/Approval at next meeting)

NKGSA Advisory Committee Meeting

July 10, 2020

****Clovis Public Safety Building**

VIA TELECONFERENCE:

In attendance:

*Scott Redelfs – City of Clovis
*Tim Bakman – Bakman Water Co.
*Dejan Pavic – City of Fresno
*Bernard Jimenez – Fresno County
*Adam Claes – FID
*Alan Hofmann – FMFCD
*Nick Keller – Garfield Water District

Kassy Chauhan – NKGSA
Kevin Dale – NKGSA (legal counsel)
Kristen Freberg – City of Clovis
Brandy Swisher – FMFCD
Ronnie Samuelian – Provost & Pritchard
Sue Ruiz – Self-Help Enterprises

* - Voting representative on Advisory Committee

**Note: *This meeting was conducted via web conference due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements.*

Item 1 – Called to order at 1:30 PM

Special Instructions:

Special teleconferencing procedures for the Advisory Committee meeting were read by Executive Officer, Kassy Chauhan. The special instructions included information on written and verbal comments for the Advisory Committee members and members of the public participating via teleconference.

Following the special teleconference instructions, a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Agency Name	Name of Person	Present/Absent
Bakman Water Company	Tim Bakman	Present
City of Clovis	Scott Redelfs	Present
City of Fresno	Dejan Pavic	Present
Fresno County	Bernard Jimenez	Present
Fresno Irrigation District	Adam Claes	Present
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District	Alan Hofmann	Present
Garfield Water District	Nick Keller	Present
Biola CSD	-	Absent
International Water District	-	Absent
City of Kerman	-	Absent

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes from 05/08/20 Meeting

Motion by member Bakman to approve; second by member Keller.

Committee votes as follows:

Bakman: Aye Jimenez: Aye Keller: Aye
 Redelfs: Aye Claes: Aye
 Pavic: Aye Hofmann: Aye (*Biola, International, & Kerman absent*)

7 Aye; 3 Absent. Motion passed.

Item 3 – Receive – Basin Coordination Update

(Update presented by Ronnie Samuelian)

The GSAs are reviewing comments that have come through the DWR portal.

The spring 2020 contours are not yet complete and some data is still pending. All representative/indicator well data is due to be submitted to DWR by July 1st annually, but a one-month extension has been granted.

Some GSAs are starting to adopt rules and regulations. North Fork has been in discussions with Westside regarding boundary flows. GSA managers have been given access to the Data Management System where the annual report data is stored. Policy change meetings with the County have been delayed, but there should be one within the next month.

A Stanford professor has been in contact regarding a possible Airborne Electromagnetic Method (AEM) mapping to gather information on soil conditions below the surface. There is funding to do the east side of the Basin. A more detailed presentation will be coming in the future.

Some GSAs are starting to gather construction information and constructing new monitoring wells, as well as starting on projects.

Item 4 – Financial Report

(Update presented by Kassy Chauhan)

Item 4a – Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget Revision Approved

Approved at the May 28th Board meeting.

Item 4b – Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Proposed Budget & Agency Cost Share Approved

Approved at the May 28th Board meeting.

i. Agency Invoices

Invoices distributed beginning in August will be accompanied by a letter of explanation, due to some agencies receiving credits and others receiving an additional charge. The fiscal agent will be assisting to ensure that all 2019/2020 expenses are paid so that the fiscal year can be closed out. The 2020/2021 invoices will then be able to reflect any applicable balances from the previous fiscal year.

Item 5 – Executive Officer Update
(Update presented by Kassy Chauhan)

Item 5a – GSP Public Comment Update

The DWR portal for public comments closed on May 15th, 2020, and we received a total of 9 comment letters. Initial review of comments has been done and a comment review strategy is being developed. The primary focus of the comment review strategy is whether or not the comment results in a need to change the GSP. Comments have been sorted into categories in order to more easily evaluate what effect they could have, if any, on the GSP. The goal is to avoid revisions to the GSP unless necessary.

A small group was assembled to help sort through comments. The group met on July 8th, 2020 to review the comments and reach consensus on categorization and evaluation of the comments. The group was made up of: Lisa Koehn retired from Clovis, Adam Claes from FID, Ronnie Samuelian from Provost & Pritchard, Sue Ruiz of Self-Help Enterprises, and Shay Bakman from Bakman Water Company.

The next step in this process is to hold a follow-up meeting to further evaluate a few specific comments. Following that, the group will wait for DWR's review of the GSP.

Member Bakman asked if commenters would be kept in the loop on DWR's response. Outreach options are still being considered and discussed. There are challenges in responding individually and in detail to each public commenter, but work is being done to develop resources that can be distributed to the public to inform them and to address general concerns.

Member Jimenez also asked if the comments received distributed to all member agencies, as well as the source of the comments. Comment letters are available through the SGMA portal, and Kassy will also be sending out a link to the group. In terms of comment sources, there was a combination of government agencies, NGOs, and miscellaneous. There were no comments from individual property owners within the GSA.

Item 5b – External Affairs Update

Work with KRCD on public outreach is continuing. KRCD has presented a

proposal for outreach efforts in 2020/2021. This includes development and maintenance of the NKGSA website, continued social media presence, quarterly e-updates, and potential future workshops. Other tasks will be added as needed.

Item 5c – Representative Monitoring Network

i. Discuss Outreach to Owners of Representative Monitoring Network

Fresno Irrigation District has been assisting with the work of entering into agreements with well owners for access and video inspections. One agreement has been executed so far; several others are in progress. The goal is to have all of the agreements in place by the next monitoring event in September.

ii. Discuss Status of Representative Monitoring Network Wells

There are 6 wells in the network that do not have well construction information. 2 sites in Central Unified had the pumps pulled and downhole video inspections performed. Others are in progress and will hopefully be completed in the next few weeks.

One TNC well was sampled on May 18th, 2020. All results were acceptable and the next round of monitoring will take place in May 2023.

Item 5d – Miscellaneous

Kassy will be providing staff training for the State Water Resources Control Board on August 4th, 2020. This training is meant to provide a “SGMA 101” training for staff working with the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water program.

One of the policy changes being discussed with the County is a revised well drilling permit application. The revised application would contain some additional information important to the GSA in terms of SGMA implementation. The final draft has been provided by the County and will be sent out to the GSA. Conversations with well drillers will also need to be had to ensure that they understand the changes to the timeline for processing permits for drilling new wells.

The Stanford geophysics project does have funding available to complete the work that Stanford is doing. However, if there is additional data that

member agencies need that Stanford would be able to collect while they do their work, it may be worthwhile to share in a cost to have Stanford assist in collecting that data.

SJV News posted an article regarding private domestic wells drying up. This article was in response to a Water Foundation report in June. The SJV News article presented an opportunity to share the GSA's perspective on this topic and which areas are ones of concern to the GSA.

There is a review being done on what kind of policies and procedures the GSA is going to need to develop in order to implement the GSP. There will be some future proposals presented to the Board based on this review.

There will be a member agency responsibility discussion set up in the near future to discuss responsibility for overdraft in the Basin. This will likely be done via teleconference. Each agency will need to designate someone to serve as a representative at that meeting.

Item 6 – Workgroup Updates and Actions

There have been no workgroup meetings to date and there is no further report at this time.

Item 7 – Public Comments

No comments received.

Item 8 – Advisory Committee Member Comments

There was discussion regarding whether the NKGSA Board needed to hold its regularly scheduled meeting on July 23rd, considering the lack of actionable items. It was decided that the Advisory Committee would recommend to the Board to cancel that meeting and resume with its scheduled meeting in August. Kassy will follow up with the Chairman of the Board – Director Prieto regarding cancelling the meeting.

Item 9 – Adjourn

Motion by member Jimenez to adjourn; second by member Bakman. Meeting adjourned at 2:28 PM.

Item 10 – Future Meetings

The future meeting schedule is as follows:

- a. August 14, 2020
- b. September 11, 2020
- c. October 9, 2020



AGENDA ITEM NO: **5 (a)**

Executive Officer: *KDC*

NKGSA- REPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO: Chair and Advisory Committee Members
FROM: Kassy D. Chauhan – Executive Officer
DATE: August 10, 2020
SUBJECT: GSA Policies
ATTACHMENTS: None

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

RECOMMENDATION

For the Advisory Committee to direct staff to form a Policy Workgroup to develop draft policies for consideration by the Advisory Committee prior to presentation to the NKGSA Board of Directors.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The NKGSA has submitted the NKGSA GSP adopted by the Board of Directors and has transitioned from the plan development phase to the plan implementation phase. While the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) extends authorities to the GSAs for achieving sustainable conditions, each GSA needs to develop rules for their GSA to utilize the granted authorities. As such, a variety of policies will be needed for the GSA to perform the necessary tasks to monitor progress as well as provide oversight over activities affecting the overall overdraft in the GSA boundary.

The GSA consists of seven member agencies and is charged with achieving sustainability by 2040. The member agencies are charged with mitigating for their portion of the overdraft within the GSAs. The member agencies were required to develop projects identified to correct their portion of the overdraft within the GSAs. The NKGSA is charged

with overseeing these efforts by the member agencies and gauging progress towards meeting the interim milestones identified in the GSP.

The GSA needs to develop a reporting mechanism for member agencies to report on project progress aimed at mitigating for their portion of the overdraft. A Member Agency Reporting Policy will have provisions for submittal of periodic reports by the member agencies to the GSA to demonstrate steps being taken to correct for their portion of the overdraft.

Additionally, the GSA needs to develop policies (rules for the GSA) to ensure oversight of activities affecting the GSA's ability to achieve its sustainability goals are being reviewed and commented on. The NKGSA has been reviewing all permit applications for new wells in addition to all land use planning documents being routed to the GSA by Fresno County Planning Department. Without GSA rules and policies, the GSA's ability to provide comment on these documents is limited. The County has indicated that each GSA will need to develop policies/procedures requiring GSA review/approval of new wells prior to being able to exercise authorities related to new wells being drilled within the GSA.

The NKGSA has a workgroup policy (NKGSA Policy 2020-002) regarding the formation of workgroups including workgroup member solicitation. This workgroup policy will be used to solicit workgroup members to begin development of various policies related to member agency reporting requirements as well as developing provisions related to new wells being drilled within the GSA boundary. One of the initial tasks of the workgroup would be to brainstorm on additional policies needed based on previous conversations with the former Technical Committee during the GSP implementation phase. This proposed list of policies would be presented to the Advisory Committee for review and comment and will be used to prioritize the development of policies.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact related to the formation of the policy workgroup with the exception of staff time being spent on development of the policy.

ACTIONS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Upon direction from the Advisory Committee, the Executive Officer will solicit members for a Policy Workgroup and will schedule a meeting of the group to begin discussions regarding NKGSA policies.

Prepared by: Kassy D. Chauhan



AGENDA ITEM NO: 6 (a) - (e)
Executive Officer: RPC

NKGSA- REPORT TO THE Advisory Committee

TO: Chair and Committee Members
FROM: Executive Officer – Kassy Chauhan
DATE: August 10, 2020
SUBJECT: NKGSA Executive Officer Report
ATTACHMENTS: NONE

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Comments

The North Kings GSA submitted its adopted groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) to Department of Water Resources via the SGMA Portal on January 28, 2020. January 31, 2020 was the start of a 90-day public comment period lasting until May 15, 2020. The NKGSA received a total of nine (9) comment letters, the most of any GSA in the Kings Subbasin, submitted through the SGMA Portal. Many of the comment letters received were also submitted to the other GSAs in the Kings Subbasin whom received between four (James Irrigation District GSA) and eight (North Fork Kings GSA) comment letters.

To facilitate the review of these comments, Provost & Pritchard compiled a comprehensive table outlining the nature of the comment, who the comment was provided by and to group them into various themes for further consideration. Next, a small group of authors of the GSP, individuals involved in the writing, reviewing and development of the GSP, representing various entities were gathered to provide input on the comments received and establish priorities needing to be addresses by the NKGSA. The review team has met twice (once on July 8, 2020 and once on August 6, 2020). This internal review of the GSP comments was intended to review the comment in detail and review the section of the GSP associated with the comment. Upon review of all the comments, it was decided to not provide written responses to DWR at this time but allow DWR to complete their review of the GSP. Upon completion of DWR's review of the GSP (including consideration of all comments received during the public comment periods), the GSA will be notified regarding the adequacy of its GSP including any areas needing additional work. Prior to DWR's review, the GSA will continue to implement the GSP adopted by the NKGSA Board of Directors and continue to meet with stakeholders regarding the GSP and GSA activities and maintain remain transparent in the process.

Some of the follow up actions identified as a result of sorting through the comments include working with DWR to understand acceptable thresholds for various criteria: enhancing the messaging regarding the depth of the aquifer below where the Minimum Thresholds (MTs) were set; and reviewing other GSPs to identify how domestic well impacts were evaluated in other GSAs and Basins. Given the quick turnaround for the development and adoption of the GSPs and the requirement in SGMA to evaluate the GSP every five years and make necessary updates, much of the discussion in the comments is based on known data gaps which will hopefully be filled in the next five years prior to the first update to the GSP.

Member Agency Overdraft Responsibility Discussions

In light of COVID-19 and restrictions on meeting in large groups, the NKGSA will begin to hold member agency overdraft responsibility discussions individually with the member agencies to refine the data used in the water budget for each agency. A thorough review of each agency's water budget will facilitate the discussion regarding each member agency's overdraft responsibility. These discussions with the individual member agencies will allow for the evaluation of the data prior to the large group discussion with representatives from each member agency present to discuss any concerns/conflicts regarding details included in their water budget. The individual member agency discussions will be scheduled starting in September 2020.

External Affairs

KRCD continues to provide support to the NKGSA in regarding to public relations including posting to the NKGSA social media and assistance with preparing emails for distribution to the general interest group for the NKGSA. The contract for services by the KRCD External Affairs team was executed on July 16, 2020, after reviews by legal and upon approval of the NKGSA Budget for FY 2020/2021 which includes a line item for public relations. Future efforts may include joint workshops with other GSAs within the subbasin given KRCD works with several GSAs in the subbasin.

Representative Monitoring Network

The owners of wells identified in the NKGSA GSP's representative monitoring network have been identified. Work is underway to obtain access agreements for all the water level monitoring wells in the network and for all network monitoring wells with missing construction information. Fresno Irrigation District (FID) is the member agency associated with most of the water level monitoring wells in the network and has been actively working with the well owners to obtain the access agreements from each of the FID monitoring wells. To date, one agreement has been recorded with the County and several others are in process. The access agreements grant access to conduct the biannual water level measurements as well as an indemnity clause in the event damages occur during the monitoring events. The goal is to have all the access agreements executed prior to the next monitoring event in September 2020.

Once the monitoring agreement is obtained, FID notifies the NKGSA and arrangements are made to obtain construction information for the well. The preferred method, and less invasive method, for obtaining construction information from the wells is by using the small-diameter AquaVision video equipment leased by Provost & Pritchard (P&P). P&P leased the video equipment for one month to evaluate its effectiveness to determine whether if a full purchase is warranted. To date, one well has been videoed using the downhole video inspection equipment. One other well was attempted but access issues were encountered making it impossible to put the video inspection equipment down the well casing. While P&P initially leased the equipment for a period of one-month, they have proceeded with purchasing the equipment and it should arrive by mid-August.

Currently, various sites with missing construction information are being visited to determine whether the downhole video survey can be completed with the access ports available at the wells. If not, arrangements will be made with the well owner to arrange for pulling the pump.

For the water quality monitoring network wells, construction information has been obtained for all but one well in the network (owned by Vulcan Materials). Additional attempts will be made to reach the well owner in an attempt to obtain construction information.

Prepared by: Kassy D. Chauhan