

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR
MARCH 24, 2022, AT 6:00 P.M.
2907 SOUTH MAPLE AVENUE – FRESNO, CA**

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

AGENCIES – DIRECTORS / ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT

Fresno Irrigation District – Chairman Jerry Prieto, Jr. (via teleconference)
County of Fresno – Alternate Director Bernard Jimenez (via teleconference)
Bakman Water Company – Director Steve Pickens (via teleconference)
City of Fresno – Alternate Director Brock Buche (via teleconference)
City of Clovis – Director Bob Whalen (via teleconference)
Garfield Water District – Director Karl Kienow (via teleconference)
At-Large Seat 7 (Fowler Packing) – Director Kyle Moeller (via teleconference)

BOARD SEATS ABSENT

None

MEMBER STAFF PRESENT

Executive Officer Kassy Chauhan – North Kings GSA (via teleconference)
Legal Counsel Kevin Dale – Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud, & Romo (via teleconference)
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group Representative / Kings Basin Coordinator Ronnie Samuelian (via teleconference)
Advisory Committee Chairman – Scott Redelfs (via teleconference)
Fresno Irrigation District Representative / Technical Workgroup Chairman – Adam Claes (via teleconference)
Fresno Irrigation District Representative / Fiscal Agent – DeAnn Hailey (via teleconference)
City of Kerman Representative – Jerry Jones (via teleconference)
County of Fresno Representative – Augustine Ramirez (via teleconference)
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District Representative – Staff Analyst Andrew Remus (via teleconference)
Fresno Irrigation District Representative / Recording Secretary – Lynn B. Rowe (via teleconference)

OTHERS PRESENT (who wanted to be identified for the record)

None stated

Chairman Prieto led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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1. SWEARING IN OF APPOINTED DIRECTORS AND ALTERNATE DIRECTORS

Prior to reviewing the meeting’s instructions and the taking of roll call (Directors, staff, interested parties, and anyone from the public who wish to be identified) Ms. Chauhan played the previously recorded Oath of Office for Mr. Chuck Rodriguez as the new first alternate director representing Seat 7.

Ms. Chauhan, acting as the meeting’s moderator, provided the general instructions for conducting a teleconference meeting while the Shelter-In-Place order is in effect due to the COVID-19 meeting restrictions. This meeting was held completely virtually. Full instructions were provided in the agenda. Ms. Chauhan reported that no written or verbal comments were received for this meeting.

Ms. Chauhan then conducted a roll call of directors, staff, interested parties, and the public who wanted to be identified. Ms. Chauhan reviewed the instructions on the commenting, making of a motion, and voting procedures. Once that was complete, the meeting was turned back over to Chairman Prieto.

2. CALL TO ORDER

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Prieto called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance at 6:02 p.m.

4. NKGSA RESOLUTION 2022-04

- a. In accordance with AB361, the Board will consider adoption of NKGSA Resolution 2022-04: Resolution of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors – Resolution Continuing the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Authority to hold virtual meetings pursuant to AB 361. (Chauhan/Dale)**

Chairman Prieto stated this is the same resolution verbiage as the Board has passed at previous meetings. It allows the Board to continue to hold modified virtual meetings due to COVID-19 restrictions in accordance with AB361. A resolution is required to be renewed every 30 days.

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M/S/C (Jimenez/Buche) That the Board of Directors approved Resolution 2022-04. Ms. Chauhan proceeded with calling of the roll call vote. (Ayes – Pickins, Kienow, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Jimenez, Whalen, Moeller; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

5. REVIEW AGENDA

(Additional Agenda Items – Requires Majority Approval of Board - §54954.2(b))

There were no additions or changes to the agenda. Ms. Chauhan noted there will be no Closed Session portion of the meeting.

6. REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

No changes at this time to the approved meeting date schedule. Staff will look into special meeting date options for June and July 2022 (should they be needed) to allow for adoption of the revised Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

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

There were no Public Presentations.

8. 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 §18705]

None stated.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Discussion/Possible Action on Board Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2022

There were no corrections or suggestions to the February 24, 2022, meeting minutes.

M/S/C (Whalen/Kienow) That the Board of Directors approved the minutes of the February 24, 2022, regular Board meeting. Ms. Chauhan proceeded with the calling of the roll call vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Jimenez, Whalen, Moeller; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

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b. Kings Subbasin Coordination Update (Samuelian)

Mr. Samuelian congratulated Mr. Glenn Allen from the County of Fresno on his retirement at the end of the month and thanked him for his diligent and professional work.

Mr. Samuelian reviewed the following:

- Grants
 - \$4.8 million DWR SGMA Implementation Grant Round 1 – Projects Underway (FID (near completion) and Kerman in North Kings)
 - \$7.6 million DWR SGMA Implementation Grant Round 2 – DWR staff approval
 - Projects selected from Consolidated, James, Laguna, and Fresno irrigation districts (between Rounds 1 and 2, six of the seven GSAs in the Kings Basin have received project funding)
 - Anticipate signing contract by May with work starting as early as this summer
 - DWR Planning Grant – Continuing to gather well construction information on RMWs
- Finalizing Annual Report (Water Year October 2020 – September 2021). Due April 1, 2022
 - Planning outreach associated with annual report and new \$7.6 million grant
 - Only delivered approximately 330,000 acre-feet of surface water into the Kings Basin last year (normal year would have been one million acre-feet). In 2015 (worst year on record) only 260,000 acre-feet was delivered. Wells typically dropped six to ten feet
- Coordination of GSP Revisions
 - Work progressing on all four deficiencies
 - GSA representatives working through water level SMC language changes. Meeting with DWR in early April to review
 - Subsidence, water quality, and interconnected surface water changes are also progressing
 - Still targeting revised GSPs to GSA in June for adoption in July and submit to State by July 27th

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Chairman Prieto inquired about subsidence. Mr. Samuelian reported according to state data there is some subsidence appearing in the western area of the Kings Basin. It appears to be caused by neighboring basins and not pumping from the Kings Basin area.

c. Water Conditions Update (Claes)

Mr. Claes reported on the following water conditions:

- Pine Flat (Kings River): 350,000 acre-feet of storage
 - 68% of today's historic average
- Millerton Lake (San Joaquin River): 299,000 acre-feet
 - 83% of today's historic average
- CVP: Class I initial allocation: 15%
 - May be reduced for Exchange Contractor deliveries
- CVP North and South of Delta: 0%
- State Water Project: 5%

The Tulare Basin 6-Station Precipitation Index for Water Year 2022 (updated March 24, 2022) showed well below average precipitation for November 2021, January (0 inches), February, and March 2022.

Mr. Claes reported that the Current Snow Conditions for the Central and South regions are both about 50% of April 1 average. The Kings Basin is located between the two regions.

Summary

- Peak snowpack occurred late December 2021
 - Typically occurs late March/early April
 - 2022 Kings runoff will be somewhere between 2020 (53%) and 2021 (23%)
 - FID anticipates a two – three-month irrigation season for 2022

d. Advisory Committee Update (Redelfs)

Mr. Redelfs reported the Advisory Committee last met on March 11, 2022. There were discussions on the GSP and the needed revisions by July's deadline. The Committee acted and approved the following recommendations:

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Decisions/Discussions:

- Possible In-Person Meetings – Starting April 2021

Recommended Actions:

- Approval of the Expenses (January 2022)
- Approval of the Financial Statements as of January 31, 2022
- Apply Member Agency Participation Balances to Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Invoices
- Approved Updated Committee Roster – Fresno County (retirement of Glenn Allen). Mr. Jimenez and Mr. Ramirez will be representing the County

e. Workgroup Updates (Claes)

i. Technical Workgroup (Claes)

- Reconvened Technical Committee – Technical Workgroup
- First Meeting – February 4, 2022
- Chair/Lead – Adam Claes (FID)
- Purpose – Review suggested changes to GSP and provide feedback on proposed revisions
- Monthly Meetings Scheduled – Next meeting April 1
 - Review proposed edits to GSP to address DWR comments

ii. Policy Workgroup (Chauhan)

- Agency Reports Submitted
- Evaluating Projects and Timelines
- Revised Mitigation Policy
 - Memorialize Commitment to Mitigate for GW Pumping – No Specific Water Budgets
 - Presentation to policy workgroup (hope to reconvene within the next couple of weeks)
 - Advisory Committee
 - Board of Directors

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10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Expense Reports for January 2022 (Hailey)

Ms. Hailey stated all the January 2022 expenses were paid for. The expenses were for the normal course of business and within budget. Included for January was the KRCD 2021 subsidence monitoring data invoice. There were no outstanding invoices remaining.

b. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of the Financial Statements as of January 31, 2022 (Hailey)

Ms. Hailey presented the Financial Statements as of January 31, 2022, and supporting documents.

At the direction of the Board, items 10. a. and b. were taken as one motion.

M/S/C (Jimenez/Kienow) That the Board of Directors approved the Expense Reports for January 2022 and approved the Financial Statements as of January 31, 2022. Ms. Chauhan proceeded with calling of the roll call vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Jimenez, Whalen, Moeller; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

c. Discussion/Possible Action – Member Agency Participation Account Balances (Hailey)

Ms. Hailey stated the invoices to the interested parties will be going out in the mail on April 1, 2022. The Member Agency Participation balances as of June 30, 2021, was \$546,000. It was discussed during the Advisory Committee meeting that the excess funds be placed as carryover funds in legal and other reserves funds as needed. Allocation of funds with excess monies will be discussed during the budget review process and then brought to the Advisory Committee meeting for recommendation to the Board. This should happen within the next month or two.

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Alternate Director Buche suggested putting some of the excess funds into the engineering consulting category to help fund future costs. Ms. Chauhan replied that they would look into that but believes the budget will cover the expenses. The draft budget should be ready for review in April or May.

11. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT (Chauhan)

a. Department of Water Resources Prop 68 Grant Update

Ms. Chauhan shared photos of:

- Savory Pond Project (N/W Lincoln and Chestnut)
 - Construction near completion
 - 900 acre-feet of additional recharge

Chairman Prieto requested that invitations to the ribbon cutting ceremony be extended to the NKGSA and FID Board members.

b. DWR Groundwater Sustainability Plan Comment Letter and Responses

- Four Deficiencies (some agencies inquiring if additional time for revisions is available – special meetings may need to be scheduled (June or July 2022) in order to submit the revised GSP on time
 - Coordinate Response
 - DWR Meetings/Discussions
 - Public Participation
 - Advisory Committee
 - NKGSA Board Meetings
 - Technical Workgroup

c. Outreach / External Affairs Update

- Grower Resources: Maintain Flood Irrigation Lines When Converting to Drip/Micro Irrigation (working with irrigation design companies)
- Working with Fresno County – White Areas – Mailed Engagement Post Card (received a lot of interest)
- Ms. Chauhan hosted the current FAACT Class on March 7, 2022
- Ms. Chauhan participated in World Water Day Symposium – FSU on March 22, 2022

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- Ms. Chauhan will be a panelist at the WELL (Water Education for Latino Leaders) Conference in April. Moderated by Gary Serrato
- Ms. Chauhan will be speaking at a women’s conference in April

d. Representative Monitoring Network Update

- Continued efforts to secure Well Access Agreements (agreement will ensure monitoring well access continues even if the property is sold)
- Identify replacement wells as Representative Monitoring Wells
- Review Destruction Permits for potential monitoring locations

e. Miscellaneous

- Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program – Application Due April 1, 2022 (the state has approximately \$50 million dollars in grant funding for repurposing land)
 - KRCD, UCCE, Fresno State
 - GSA Support Letter
 - Recharge
 - Research – Pilot Study
- Upper Aquifer Study – Underway (Ms. Chauhan will continue to update the Board as information becomes available). Group trying to identify how much water is being lost
- County Well Permit Review and Coordination with Permitting Agencies – Ms. Chauhan has reviewed approximately 460 permits – good coordination with the County
- Stakeholder Group Participation
 - Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (encompasses eight valley counties)
 - San Joaquin Valley Blueprint
 - Collaborative Action Plan (looking for additional funding)
- Renewal of the Executive Officer Contract starting in March/April. Coordination of contract between Fresno Irrigation District and the North Kings GSA

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12. DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Pickens – nothing to report.

Director Kienow – plans to attend the upcoming ACWA / JPIA Board Meeting in early May in Sacramento.

Alternate Director Buche – nothing to report.

Director Prieto – thanked Ms. Chauhan for all her work.

Director Whalen – nothing to report.

Alternate Director Jimenez – nothing to report.

Director Moeller – nothing to report.

No Closed Session portion of the meeting was held.

CLOSED SESSION

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)): One potential case

13. REPORT ON ACTIONS(S) TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Nothing to report – no Closed Session.

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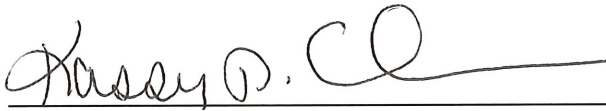
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14. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Prieto requested a motion to adjourn.

M/S/C (Buche/Kienow) That the Board of Directors approved adjourning the March 24, 2022, Regular Board of Directors meeting at 6:58 p.m. with calling of the roll call vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Jimenez, Whalen, Moeller; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

Submitted by,



Kassy Chauhan, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer