THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR
APRIL 23, 2020, AT 6:00 P.M.
2907 SOUTH MAPLE AVENUE – FRESNO, CA

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

DIRECTORS / ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT
Fresno Irrigation District – Chairman Jerry Prieto, Jr. (via conference call)
County of Fresno – Vice Chairman Brian Pacheco
Bakman Water Company – Director Steve Pickens
Garfield Water District – Director Karl Kienow (via conference call)
City of Kerman – Director Rhonda Armstrong (via conference call)
City of Fresno – Alternate Director Mike Carbajal (via conference call)
City of Clovis – Director Jose Flores

DIRECTORS / AGENCIES ABSENT
None

MEMBER STAFF PRESENT
Executive Officer Kassy Chauhan – North Kings GSA
Legal Counsel Kevin Dale – Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud, & Romo (via conference call)
Advisory Committee Chairman Scott Redelfs – City of Clovis
Fiscal Officer DeAnn Hailey – Fresno Irrigation District
Consultant Ron Samuelian – Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (via conference call)
Adam Claes – Fresno Irrigation District
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe – Fresno Irrigation District (via conference call)

OTHERS PRESENT
Glenn Allen – County of Fresno (via conference call)
Brandy Swisher – Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (via conference call)
Lisa Koehn – Interested Party (via conference call)
Andrew Nabors – Clovis Unified School District (via conference call)
Don Wright – Water Rights (via conference call)
Diane Merrill – League of Women Voters - Fresno (via conference call)

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

Immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance Ms. Chauhan, acting as the meeting's moderator, provided the instructions for conducting a teleconference meeting while the Shelter-In-Place order is in effect due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

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Ms. Chauhan then conducted a roll call of directors, staff, and public. She then 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. REVIEW AGENDA
(Additional Agenda Items – Requires Majority Approval of Board - §54954.2(b)
There were no changes / additions to the agenda by the Board or Staff.

3. REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS
Dates for the November and December 2020 Board meetings will be revisited in October.

4. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (for items not on agenda) – 3 Minutes Maximum Per Person, 10 Minutes Maximum Per Subject
No presentations.

5. 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.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Discussion / Possible Action on Board Meeting Minutes - February 27, 2020

There were no corrections or amendments to the minutes.

M/S/C (Kienow/Armstrong) That the Board of Directors approved the minutes of the February 27, 2020 regular meeting. Ms. Chauhan proceeded with calling for the roll call vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Armstrong, Prieto, Carbajal, Flores, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

b. Kings Subbasin Coordination Update

Mr. Samuelian reviewed the following:

- Basin Annual Report (2018-2019) submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on April 1, 2020 – refinement as the group moves forward

- Work to be done on Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 boundary flow estimations
- $500 ($70K per GSA) Grant contract in process with DWR
- Meeting with County staff to discuss policy changes
- Received / responded to The Nature Conservancy data request – working on unified coordination responses for future requests
- DWR extended portal comment period until May 15 due to COVID-19 outbreak; responses from GSAs are being defined. First comment letter received from Department of Fish and Wildlife. Mr. Samuelian will be the Basin's Point of Contact and will be dealing with DWR and the other basins
- GSAs working on filling data gaps and starting projects

c. Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Redelfs stated the Advisory Committee met on April 10, 2020, where they reviewed the revised 2020 Committee meeting schedule and the Workgroup Policy:

i. Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

Mr. Redelfs reported the Committee has reversed its earlier decision of meeting every other month and will continue to meet on a monthly basis (second Friday of each month). This will enable the public, staff, and member agencies to have ample opportunity to engage in the discussions and decisions of the North Kings GSA.

ii. NKGSA Workgroup Policy (NKGSA 2020-002)

During the February 27, 2020 meeting, the Board approved the disbanding of the three ad-hoc committees (Technical, Finance, and Outreach) now that the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) has been submitted to DWR for comment/approval. Moving forward, it was decided to use a workgroup model.

- Develop a Workgroup Policy
  - Purpose: Provide direction to executive officer when forming workgroups
- Provisions:
  - Workgroup Composition
  - Solicitation for Workgroup Participation
  - Workgroup Process

d. Discussion / Possible Action on Adoption of the Policy on Formation of Workgroups NKGSA-2020-002

Ms. Chauhan stated the purpose of the workgroups is to provide direction and provisions for soliciting members and parameters. The Advisory Committee approved the recommendation for Workgroup Policy NKGSA-2020-002 and recommended adoption by the NKGSA Board of Directors.

M/S/C (Carbajal/Armstrong) That the Board of Directors approved the adoption of the NKGSA Workgroup Policy (NKGSA-2020-002). Ms. Chauhan proceeded with calling for the roll call vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Armstrong, Prieto, Carbajal, Flores, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a. Expense Report for February 2020 and March 2020 – Action Item

Ms. Hailey reported on the expense reports from February 2020 and March 2020. Expenses were as reported and within budget.

Director Armstrong started to move forward with a motion to approve item 7. a. when the Board agreed to take items 7 a. – d. in one motion.

b. Financial Statements as of January 31, 2020 – Action Item

January 2020 show the last month of the old percentages for the member units; February 2020 begins the new percentages.

c. Financial Statements as of February 29, 2020 – Action Item

Ms. Hailey reported the budget was in balance.

d. Financial Statements as of March 31, 2020 – Action Item

Ms. Hailey reported that a line item was over budget and would be addressed in the next budget.

M/S/C (Armstrong/Kienow) That Director Armstrong revised her motion to include items 7. a. – d. and that the Board of Directors approved the Financial Reports as presented. Ms. Chauhan proceeded with calling for the roll call vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Armstrong, Prieto, Carbajal, Flores, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

a. External Affairs

- KRCD External Affairs team is assisting the NKGSA with outreach and engagement activities through the end of the fiscal year. These activities include the following:
    - Website Audit and Development
    - Press Releases and E-news Blasts
    - Resource Development
    - Stakeholder Engagement Campaign
    - Social Media Strategy

The existing arrangement is through June 30, 2020, and will likely be extended into the next fiscal year, with approval of the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget. Working with KRCD provides an economical means of conducting outreach and engagement activities in a cost-effective method since KRCD works with other GSAs conducting similar outreach activities.

b. Staff Resources Agreement

As the GSP is implemented, the North Kings GSA has arranged with Fresno Irrigation District to provide additional staff resources. GIS specialist and engineering technicians will provide support by way of identifying owner information for the representative monitoring wells, creating special maps with locations of the representative monitoring wells, identifying alternative representative monitoring well locations to be used in the event measurements cannot be obtained at a designated location, and communicating with the executive officer on findings from the routine monitoring events. FID staff time is estimated to be no more than five hours per month. Staff plans to bring the agreement to the Board during the May meeting.

c. County Planning Document Review Process

Review of County planning documents is under way. Ms. Chauhan is studying the scope of the projects and their impacts to the overall groundwater aquifer and requesting additional water budget information where applicable. Discussions with the County indicate the pre-development materials distributed by the County may be updated to include a requirement to submit more detailed information on existing water use compared to water use after the project is completed. These efforts are underway. Ms. Chauhan represents the Kings Subbasin on a subcommittee with County personnel to continue discussions with Fresno County including necessary policy updates. These efforts are ongoing.

d. Monitoring Network Agreement

Ms. Chauhan reported that Fresno Irrigation District is assisting with obtaining owner information on the monitoring wells and ensuring the proper agreements are in place with the landowners. Backup plans are under development for when monitoring wells go offline or are no longer usable.

e. Miscellaneous

- Water Supply Conditions Report – Presented by Adam Claes
  - Beginning of April experienced good precipitation and snowfall
  - Kings River Water Association projecting 60% of average April through July runoff
  - Kings River Basin is performing ASO flights (Airborne Snow Observatory) from April through June
  - April 14 DWR Bulletin 120 April through July runoff forecast is 56% of average, an increase from 44% on April 1
  - USBR declared 55% of Class I water deliveries on April 21 with the possibility of increasing another 5%
  - February 2020 was declared the second driest February on record

- Representative Monitoring Network

The representative monitoring network includes wells owned and/or measured by the City of Fresno, Fresno County, and Fresno Irrigation District. The arrangements with the private well owners whose wells have been monitored for years need to be

formalized to allow for continued monitoring and to allow access for obtaining construction information, if applicable. These efforts are underway.

- 2020-2021 GSA Budget
  - Percentages Adjusted February 1, 2020
  - Identifying GSA Activities for Fiscal Year 2020-2021
  - Presented for Approval at the May 28 Board Meeting

- Interested Parties Invoices
  - Nine Interested Parties
  - Invoiced per Board Decision for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

- Annual Report
  - Kings Subbasin Report
  - Wet Year – Positive Results in Storage Change
    - +210,000 acre-feet of Storage Change – Kings Basin-wide
  - Posted to Website and Press Release

- Ongoing
  - Coordination with Neighboring GSA

- Public Information Request
  - Responded to The Nature Conservancy's request for shape files for determining the NKGSA's parameters on groundwater dependency on eco-systems evaluation

9. DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Pickens – none.

Director Kienow – none.

Director Armstrong – none.

Director Prieto – none.

Alternate Director Carbajal – none.

Director Flores – none.

Director Pacheco – none.

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10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion or action, Chairman Prieto adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kassy D. Ch

Kassy Chauhan, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer