North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency JPA

Regular Board Meeting
April 23, 2020

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

AGENDA

Call to Order

1. Pledge of Allegiance
   - Special Teleconference Instructions
   - Roll Call

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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 Board meetings until notified otherwise. There will not be a physical location available for the public to participate in the meeting.

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Written Comments

Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments via email at northkingsgsa@gmail.com up to three (3) hours 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.

If a written comment is received after 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, efforts will be made to read the comment into the record. However, staff cannot guarantee that written comments received after 3:00 p.m. will be read. All written comments that are not read into the record will be made part of the record of proceedings, provided that such comments are received prior to the end of the NKGSA meeting.

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Verbal Comments

If you wish to speak to the Board of Directors on the item by telephone, you must contact the NKGSA Executive Officer at (559) 233-7161 x. 7109 no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

You will be asked to provide a phone number to call you during the meeting. You will also be asked for your name so that you can be called when it is your turn to speak.

You will be called during the comment section for the agenda item on which you will speak.

You may be put on hold until your name is called by the Executive Officer.

Your comment period will be limited to three (3) minutes.

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2. Review Agenda
3. Review of Future Meetings
4. Public Presentations
5. Potential Conflicts of Interest

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6. Administrative Matters
   a. Discussion/Possible Action on Board Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2020
   b. Kings Subbasin Update (Samuelian/Chauhan)

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3. Kings Basin Update

- Basin Annual Report (18-19) submitted to DWR 4/1/20
- Work to be done on Fall ‘19 and Spr ’20, boundary flows
- $500K ($70K/GSA) Grant Contract in process with DWR
- Meetings with County to discuss policy changes
- TNC data request
- DWR extended portal comment period until 5/15
- GSAs working on filling data gaps & starting projects

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6. Administrative Matters
   c. Advisory Committee Update (Redelfs)
      i. Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule
      ii. NKGSA Workgroup Policy (NKGSA 2020-002)

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6c. Workgroup Policy

- NKGSA Board of Directors Approved Disbanding the Ad-Hoc Committees at 2/27/2020 Meeting
- Develop a Workgroup Policy
  - Purpose: Provide direction to EO when forming workgroups.
  - Provisions:
    - Workgroup Composition
    - Solicitation for Workgroup Participation
    - Workgroup Process

Attachment A

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER

Policy No: NKGSA - 002
Policy Title: Workgroup Policy
Board Approval Date:

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction to the Executive Officer (EO) of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NKGSA) when forming workgroups to complete specific tasks requiring input from member agency representatives, the public and other stakeholders.

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.

The NKGSA Board of Directors appointed an Advisory Committee to assist with the development of the necessary processes and programs needed by the Board of Directors to implement the mission of the NKGSA. For the development of the NKGSP, the Advisory Committee was supported by three ad-hoc committees: Administrative/Fiscal Subcommittee; Communication/Engagement Subcommittee; and Technical Subcommittee. The NKGSA Board of Directors approved to dissolve the ad-hoc committees on February 27, 2020, given the NKGSP has been developed and submitted to DWR.

Rationale for Policy

Given the ad-hoc committees have completed their identified tasks associated with development of the NKGSP and have since been dissolved, the NKGSA Board of Directors approved the use of workgroups to complete tasks identified by the Executive Officer (EO). The workgroups will complete tasks and report their efforts and findings to the Advisory Committee for consideration of presenting to the NKGSA Board of Directors. A process must be identified for establishing the process of forming the workgroups.

Policy

Formation of Workgroups for Completion of Specific NKGSA Tasks Specific NKGSA Tasks

It is recommended that the EO identify specific NKGSA tasks requiring input from stakeholders thus demonstrating the need to form a workgroup.

6c. Workgroup Policy

- Advisory Committee Approved – 4/10/2020
- Recommendation
  - Adoption of Policy NKGSA 2020-02 for the formation of workgroups to complete specific NKGSA tasks requiring input from the member agency representatives and other stakeholders.

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

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7. Financial Matters (Hailey)
   a. Expense Report for February 2020 and March 2020 – Action Item
   b. Financial Statements as of January 31, 2020 – FINAL – Action Item
   c. Financial Statements as of February 29, 2020 – Action Item
   d. Financial Statements as of March 31, 2020 – Action Item

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8. Executive Officer Report (Chauhan)
   a. External Affairs
   b. Staff Resources Agreement
   c. County Planning Document Review Process
   d. Monitoring Network Agreements
   e. Miscellaneous

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8a. External Affairs

- KRCD External Affairs
  - Website Audit and Development
  - Press Releases and E-news Blasts
  - Resource Development
  - Stakeholder Engagement Campaign
  - Social Media Strategy
  - Agreement through 6/30/2020
  - Economy of Scale

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

April 23, 2020

Contact: Kassy Chauhan

kchauhan@fresnoirrigation.com

First Annual Report Submitted to the State, a Coordinated Snapshot of Kings Subbasin Groundwater Conditions

The North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) together with the six other GSAs in the Kings Subbasin submitted the first Annual Report to the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) ahead of the April 1, 2020 deadline. The Annual Report serves to inform and update both the State and stakeholders in the Kings Subbasin on groundwater conditions and sustainability progress.

Most data included in the report spans water year 2019, the period beginning October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. The data for the report was collected from the seven GSAs' monitoring networks, groundwater extractions, surface water supply, total water use, and changes in groundwater storage.

Water year 2019 is hydrologically considered a "wet year" seeing 134% of average diversions on the Kings River, the majority of surface water supply to the region. Thanks to the hydrology the Kings Subbasin saw improvements in groundwater conditions with the overall groundwater storage change increasing by 210,000 acre-feet Subbasin wide.

Water use in the Kings Subbasin across sectors including agriculture, urban, and managed recharge, totaled 2.7 million acre-feet for the period. The North Kings GSA member agencies including Fresno Irrigation District, Garfield Water District and the City of Fresno imported 34% of the Subbasin's total 1.64 million acre-feet of surface water supplies. Groundwater extractions supplying urban and agricultural needs within the North Kings GSA account for 19% of the Subbasin's total extracted 1.06 million acre-feet.

Surface water supplies imported into the North Kings GSA reduce groundwater reliance and ultimately provide a net benefit to the Subbasin's sustainability efforts. Wet years like the 2019 water year provide opportunities to increase groundwater volume, as surface water is often used in lieu of groundwater pumping and surplus supplies are put to use through groundwater recharge practices.

Following the adoption of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires GSAs to submit annual reports to DWR on April 1 every year as a tool to track and communicate GSP implementation progress. The North Kings GSA's GSP, adopted November 21, 2019, includes a portfolio of projects and management tools that once implemented will help the agency achieve its sustainability goals while positively impacting the entire Subbasin's efforts.

Considering this first report was prepared just months after the adoption and submission of GSPs, the data does not stray from data already included in the seven Kings Subbasin GSA's GSPs. Although the Subbasin used the opportunity to include any additional data collected through the reporting period and established a template for future reports.

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8. Executive Officer Report (Chauhan)
   b. Staff Resources Agreement
   c. County Planning Document Review Process
   d. Monitoring Network Agreements
   e. Miscellaneous

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8e. Miscellaneous

- Water Supply Conditions – Adam Claes

- Representative Monitoring Network
  - Critical Water Level Measurements
    - City of Fresno
    - Fresno County
    - Fresno Irrigation District
  - Formalized Arrangements with Private Well Owners
- 2020-2021 GSA Budget
  - Percentages Adjusted February 1, 2020
  - Identifying GSA Activities for FY 2020-2021
  - Presented at May 28th Board Meeting

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8e. Miscellaneous Continued

- Interested Parties Invoices
  - 9 Interested Parties
  - Invoiced per Board Decision for FY2019-2020
- Annual Report
  - Kings Subbasin Report
  - Wet Year – Positive Results in Storage Change
    - +210,000 AF of Storage Change – Kings Basin-wide
  - Posted to Website and Press Release
- Ongoing
  - Coordination with Neighboring GSA

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9. Directors Reports

10. Adjournment

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Thank you for joining us for the NKGSA JPA Regular Board Meeting.

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