**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE**
**NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**
**JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR**
**APRIL 27, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.**
**2907 SOUTH MAPLE AVENUE – FRESNO, CA**

**TELECONFERENCE / IN-PERSON MEETING**

**AGENCIES – DIRECTORS / ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT**
Fresno Irrigation District – Chairman Jerry Prieto, Jr.
County of Fresno – Director Brian Pacheco
Bakman Water Company – Director Steve Pickens
Garfield Water District – Director Karl Kienow
City of Clovis – Director Matthew Basgall
At-Large Seat 7 (Fowler Packing) – Director Kyle Moeller

**BOARD SEATS ABSENT**
City of Fresno

**MEMBER STAFF PRESENT**
Executive Officer Kassy Chauhan – North Kings GSA
Legal Counsel Kevin Dale – Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud, & Romo (via teleconference)
City of Clovis Representative / Advisory Committee Chairman – Scott Redelfs
Fresno Irrigation District Representative / NKGSA Fiscal Agent – DeAnn Hailey-Stork
Fresno Irrigation District Representative – Bill Stretch
Fresno Irrigation District Representative / NKGSA Advisory Committee Vice Chairman – Adam Claes

**OTHERS PRESENT (who wanted to be identified for the record)**
None stated.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Prieto at 6:00 pm.

## 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Prieto led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Chauhan reviewed the teleconference procedures that needed to be adhered to since meeting attendance was being offered virtually. Ms. Chauhan welcomed the participation from anyone participating from the public.

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3. **REVIEW AGENDA**
   **(Additional Agenda Items – Requires Majority Approval of Board - §54954.2(b)**

There were no changes to the agenda.

4. **REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

No changes to future meetings.

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

No public presentations.

6. **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.

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

   a. **Discussion/Possible Action on Board Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2023**

**M/S/C (Kienow/Moeller) That the Board of Directors approved the minutes of the January 26, 2023, regular Board meeting as presented by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – City of Fresno; Abstain – 0)**

   b. **Kings Subbasin Coordination Update (Samuelian)**

- GSP RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL
  - Awaiting final staff report/letter from DWR that includes Corrective Actions to be implemented by 2025 (letter expected within 4 to 6 weeks)
  - Tracking State Board process for other basins
- DWR contacted Kings to tell recharge story and discuss assistance during this year's runoff

- Annual report submitted
- Spring data collection - data quality improvement (seeing some recovery in the east area)
- Data gap studies and program development - ongoing
- Allocation framework discussions continue (native safe yield)
- Awaiting latest SGMA grant Round 2 results
    - 2 DAC projects – City of Fresno and Bakman WC (waiting to hear results)
- Implementing other grant funding contracts (additional floodwaters can open up the possibility of bond measure for 2024)

**c. Water Conditions Update (Claes)**

Mr. Claes showed a chart showing the record Southern Sierra snowpack due to strong January and March storms. The snow water content percent of average for mid-April is 319%.

April 1 Snow Survey

- Kings River Basin: 269% of avg
- San Joaquin Basin: 260% of avg

| Top 5 Years – Kings River Runoff | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rank | Year | April – July Runoff (af) | % of Average |
| | 2022-23 | 3,240,000 | 269% |
| 1 | 1968-69 | 3,140,000 | 258% |
| 2 | 1905-06 | 2,978,000 | 245% |
| 3 | 1982-83 | 2,728,000 | 224% |
| 4 | 2016-17 | 2,700,000 | 222% |

Mr. Claes showed a chart of the Tulare Basin 6-Station. December, January, February, and March all showed significant precipitation above average.

- On-Farm Recharge Pilot Program Jan 19 – Feb 9
- Regular agricultural deliveries began March 1
- Estimated to continue through late-Fall
- Normal: 5 months, 500k AF (650K af in 2019)
- Kings River flood releases likely through July
- FID benefits from high elevation snow & cool spring

Groundwater Recharge Efforts

- FID - 35 Basins – 890 Acres (~16,000 af to-date)
  - Current rate: 18,000 af/month
- FMFCD – 91 Basins intertied with FID canals in urban area – 1,320 Acres (not normally available for recharge between October through April/May – reserved for storm water)
- Cities – 7 Basins - 650 Acres

2019 Regional Recharge Totals

- FMFCD – 49,000 af
- City of Clovis – 9,500 af
- City of Fresno – 33,400 af
- FID – 88,100 af
- Total = 180,000 af

FID Area Recharge Capacity

- Total 2019 Recharge within FID Boundary – 180,000 af
- Additional 2023 Recharge Anticipated from Existing Post-2020 Projects – 24,900 af
- Recharge from Future Projects – 38,600 af
- Total Future Recharge Capacity = 243,500 af

2023 Recharge Opportunities

- DWR: Emergency Funding – Temporary Pumps
  - Temporarily intertie existing Flood Metropolitan Flood Control District basins not currently connected to FID canals to increase FID's Kings River demands and perform additional groundwater recharge

- 2,900 Acres of Basins within Fresno Region
- Goal to break recharge records – Compared to 2019

Recharge opportunities are taking place at the following FMFCD basins - Basin SS (temporary pump and intertie) and Basin CK (pipeline and siphon).

During the recent FID Grower Meetings, FID staff reminded growers to use as much surface water as possible in order to minimize groundwater pumping.

2023 Depth to Groundwater Information

Mr. Claes stated that FID groundwater well readings are taken twice a year. They are divided up into three areas: East Side, Northwest, and Southwest. The East Side has shown the most improvement since the last reading. Ms. Chauhan stated that readings pertaining more to the NKGSA should be available next month.

**d. Advisory Committee Update (Redelfs)**

Mr. Redelfs reported that the Advisory Committee met on Aril 14 and took the following recommended actions.

Recommended Actions:

- Approval of Expense Reports for December 2022 – February 2023
- Approval of the Financial Statements as of February 28, 2023
- Recommend Approval of Proposed Budget Revision for FY 2022-2023

**e. Well Intake Portal Development Update (Chauhan)**

- In Progress with Break 9
  - Requested Information
  - Beta Testing
    - Incorporating Available Information
  - Soft Launch (later this year)
  - Full Launch

**f. Governor's Executive Order N-7-22 and N-4-23: Well Permitting Update (Chauhan)**

| **All Well Permits Issued** | **Number** |
|---|---|
| January | 24 |
| February | 17 |
| March (To date) | 11 |
| April (To date) | 12 |
| Total | 64 |

Ms. Chauhan reported that the requested number of well permits is lower than 2022 for the same time frame.

Ms. Chauhan also presented a map that shows where the well activity is happening within the NKGSA boundary.

8. **FINANCIAL MATTERS (Hailey-Stork)**

   a. **Discussion/Possible Action – Approval of Expense Report for December 2022, January 2023, and February 2023 (Hailey-Stork)**

Mrs. Hailey-Stork stated all expenses were within budgeted amounts and there were no unexpected expenditures.

   b. **Discussion/Possible Action – Approval of the Financial Statements as of February 28, 2023**

Mrs. Hailey-Stork presented the financial statement for February 28, 2023. Mrs. Hailey-Stork stated that the revenues and expenditures are within budget.

**M/S/C (Pickens/Kienow) That the Board of Directors approved the Expense Reports for December 2022, January 2023, and February 2023, and the Financial Statements as of February 28, 2023, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – City of Fresno; Abstain – 0)**

   c. **Discussion/Possible Action – Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Revised Budget Proposal**

**Reduction in Expenses:**

| Proposed Budget Changes | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Budget Line Item** | **Budgeted Amount, $** | **Proposed Revised Amount, $** |
| Audit Expense | $6,000 | $4,510 |
| Kings Basin Coordination | $80,000 | $60,000 |
| Legal | $60,000 | $30,000 |
| Engr Services | $100,000 | $75,000 |
| Prof Services By Others | $120,000 | $120,000 |
| PR – Public Info | $75,000 | $60,000 |
| Staffing – EO | $100,000 | $80,000 |
| Staffing – Support Staff | $30,000 | $16,000 |

**Increased Expenses:**

| Proposed Budget Changes | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Budget Line Item** | **Budgeted Amount, $** | **Proposed Revised Amount, $** |
| Security Services | $500 | $964 |
| Project Costs* | $0.00 | $22,125 |

* Project Costs: Equipment for pump tests.

**Notes:**

- Reduction in expenses from $579,120 to $452,574
- Change in Net Position - $246,962
    - To be applied to Member Agency Balances

Mrs. Hailey-Stork stated that the grant income has increased to approximately $58,000.

**M/S/C (Basgall/Moeller) That the Board of Directors approved the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Revised Budget Proposal, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – City of Fresno; Abstain – 0)**

**d. Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) Update**

Mrs. Hailey-Stork reported that an interest payment of $3,383.05 was received for the LAIF account for last quarter, January – March. The money market account has about the same amount of money, and it earned $13.70.

**e. Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit Update**

Mrs. Hailey-Stork informed the Board that for the next audit a new auditor will be required. The previous auditor has declined to continue auditing the agency since they are experiencing a shortage in staff. The recommendation of sending out Request for Proposals (RFP) to qualified CPA firms will be presented at the next Advisory Committee Meeting.

Mr. Chairman Prieto, Jr., asked Legal Counsel, Mr. Dale, if the approval of the audit based on Mrs. Hailey-Stork's recommendation under Ms. Chauhan's authority as the Executive Officer or will it require Board action. Mr. Dale stated that Ms. Chauhan as the Executive Officer does have the authority, Board action is not required to select a new auditor.

**f. Interested Party Invoices Update**

Mrs. Hailey-Stork reported that the interested party contributions received so far for the 2023-24 year is $7,113.20. These contributions were received from Cargill Meat Solutions, Malaga County Water District, and Pinedale Community Services District. Expecting to receive contributions from two other interested parties.

**9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT (Chauhan)**

Ms. Chauhan welcomed Director Basgall to the Board. Ms. Chauhan also introduced Ms. Kiser as the new Executive Assistant as Ms. Rowe will be retiring in June.

**a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Determination Update**

- GSP: The Wait is Over
  - Recommended Approval of GSP – March 2
  - Official Determination and Recommended Corrective Actions – Coming Soon
- Annual Report Submitted – April 1
- Scopes for Joint Basin Studies – Developing Scopes and Cost Sharing

Ms. Chauhan stated that they continue to have the coordination meetings with the Kings Basin.

**b. Department of Water Resources Prop 68 Grant Project Update**

SGMA Implementation Projects

- Biola CSD – Biola Recharge Project – Funding Gap

Ms. Chauhan stated that Biola CSD is working on the pipeline and getting the infrastructure in place for their recharge basin. A Water Supply Agreement has been executed with FID.

- Big Dry Creek Channel Improvements – Increased Flows to Region

Ms. Chauhan reported that a capacity test was completed in January, and it demonstrated that by FID clearing the debris from the creek, it improved the capacity from approximately 50 cfs to over 100 cfs.

- Water Supply Agreements

Ms. Chauhan stated that FID has been working on Water Supply Agreements not only with Biola CSD and the City of Kerman but also with Malaga County Water District and Pinedale County Water District.

**c. Outreach / External Affairs Update**

- Social Media (platforms and followers are growing)
- Website
- Email Distribution

**d. Representative Monitoring Network Update**

Ms. Chauhan stated that there is a new monitoring well being installed in the northeast area by the DWR and it should be completed sometime this summer. The DWR's technical support services grant (TSS) is being used to fund the installation of the monitoring well.

**e. Miscellaneous**

- AB1563 (Bennett) – Well Permitting
  - New legislation which would limit the authority of local permitting agencies to issue permits for new wells. Watching this legislation closely.

Ms. Chauhan stated that there is also a lot of legislation attacking the water rights system and it is being watched closely as well.

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## 10. DIRECTORS REPORT

**Director Pickens** – nothing to report

**Director Kienow** – nothing to report

**Director Prieto** – Stated that FID is having a Prop 218 election and that ballots have been mailed out. If successful, it would support the NKGSA's SGMA goals by developing more recharge basins.

**Director Basgall** – nothing to report

**Director Moeller** – nothing to report

**Director Pacheco** – nothing to report

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Chairman Prieto adjourned the meeting at 6:57 pm.

Submitted by,

Kassy Chauhan, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer