THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR
SEPTEMBER 28, 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
City of Fresno – Alternate Director Brock Buche

BOARD SEATS ABSENT
None

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 / NKGSA Advisory Committee Chairman – Scott Redelfs
Fresno Irrigation District Representative / NKGSA Fiscal Agent – DeAnn Hailey-Stork
Fresno Irrigation District Representative – Bill Stretch

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Prieto at 6:01 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 to members of the public. 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)

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**

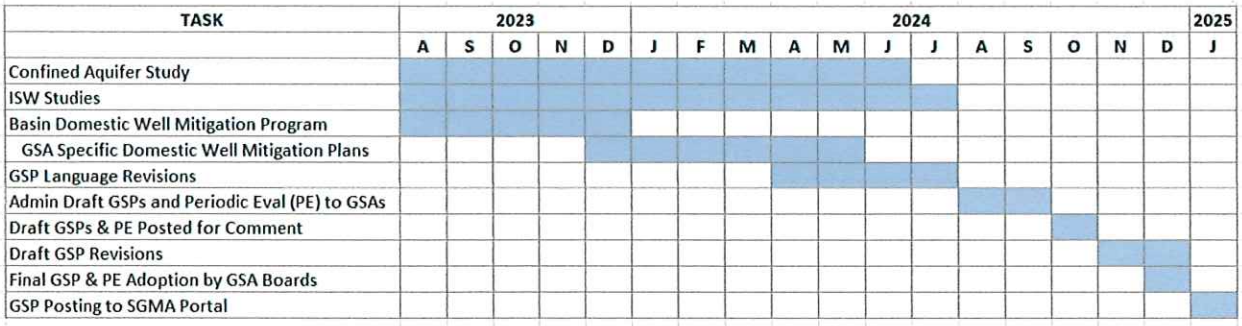
   a. **Discussion/Possible Action on Board Meeting Minutes – August 24, 2023**

There were no corrections or suggestions to the August 24, 2023, meeting minutes.

M/S/C (Kienow/Pickens) That the Board of Directors approved the minutes of the August 24, 2023 regular Board meeting as presented by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Moeller, Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

b. Kings Subbasin Coordination Update

- DWR Determination Letter & Recommended Corrective Actions Received
- Working on 3 Primary Studies and GSP Revisions
  - Basin level approach identified – short time to complete efforts
  - Will consult with DWR – and awaiting their release "Periodic Evaluation" guidelines



- Tracking State Board process for other basins
- Planned Kings Basin outreach recharge this year....+/-500,000 af
- Initiating request for SGMA specific funding in future water bond

Ms. Chauhan stated that scopes of work have been developed for the Confined Aquifer Study, Interconnected Streams Study, and the Domestic Well Mitigation Study and are beginning to gather information for these corrective action items.

Ms. Chauhan indicated that they are closely monitoring the state board process, with the first public hearing scheduled for Tulare Basin in December.

Ms. Chauhan mentioned that following this historic water year, there will be significant outreach regarding the substantial recharge that has occurred during the past year. It is anticipated that more than 500,000 acre-feet of water across the basin was put back into the underground.

Ms. Chauhan stated that the Kings Basin, in collaboration with several other basins in the Central Valley, will be submitting a letter requesting $1.5 billion in SGMA specific funding to support SGMA implementation projects.

c. Water Conditions Update (Chauhan)

2023-24 CVP & San Joaquin River:

- No change in allocations:
  - Friant Class 1 – 100% (COF 60,000 af)
  - Friant Class 2 – 15% residual (FID 11,250 af)
- Friant-Kern Canal maintenance/project shutdown November 2023 – January 2024

Kings River:

- Pine Flat Storage: 677,000 af
- Pre-Project: ~780 cfs (steady)
- FID Entitlement: ~540 cfs (70% of river)
- FID Storage: 125,000 af
  - Demands ≈ entitlements during August/September
  - Drawdown will occur in October when no FID entitlements
- Anticipate FID deliveries through October 31

Ms. Chauhan stated that 2022-23 water year is the wettest water year on record.

Top 5 Years – Kings River October – September Runoff		
Rank	Year	Runoff (af)
1	**2022-23**	**4,500,000**
2	1982-83	4,476,300
3	1968-69	4,386,200
4	2016-17	4,096,100
5	1905-06	3,899,600

d. Advisory Committee Update (Redelfs)

Mr. Redelfs reported that the Advisory Committee met earlier this month and took the following recommended actions.

Recommended Actions:

- Approval of Expense Reports for July 2023
- Approval of the Financial Statements as of July 31, 2023
- Recommend Approval of NKGSA-ACCT-505 Budget Policy

- Recommend Approval of NKGSA-ACCT-506 Operating Reserves Policy
- Recommend Approval of NKGSA-ACCT-510 Financial Reporting Policy

e. Discussion/Possible Action - Consider Approval of NKGSA-ACCT-505 – Budget Policy (Hailey-Stork)

- Recommended Approval from Advisory Committee
- Establishes process and timeline for preparing original and revised budgets
- Reflects current practices
- Recommendation: Approve NKGSA-ACCT-505 Budget Policy

M/S/C (Buche/Kienow) That the Board of Directors approved the NKGSA-ACCT-505 – Budget Policy by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

f. Discussion/Possible Action – Consider Approval of NKGSA-ACCT-506 – Operating Reserves Policy (Hailey-Stork)

- Recommended Approval from Advisory Committee
- Establishes operating reserves balances and conditions for use of operating reserves
- Reflects current practices – 100% of annual expenses
- Recommendation: Approve NKGSA-ACCT-506 Operating Reserves Policy

M/S/C (Basgall/Moeller) That the Board of Directors approved the NKGSA-ACCT-506 – Operating Reserves Policy by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

g. Discussion/Possible Action – Consider Approval of NKGSA-ACCT-510 – Financial Reporting Policy

- Recommended Approval from Advisory Committee
- Establishes requirements for preparation of financial reports for review and consideration by Advisory and Board
- Reflects current practices
- Recommendation: Approve NKGSA-ACCT-510 Financial Reporting Policy

M/S/C (Pickens/Buche) That the Board of Directors approved the NKGSA-ACCT-510 – Financial Reporting Policy by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

h. Well Intake Portal Development Update (Chauhan)

- Break 9 Developed Tool
  - External Beta Testing – October through December
    - Identifying external beta testers
    - Potential Data Sources for Well Information
  - Soft Launch
  - Full Launch

Ms. Chauhan stated that efforts are being made to address concerns related to the confidentiality of the well location data and that they will be working with the policy committee to develop guidelines for the launch.

i. Well Permitting Update (Chauhan)

Ms. Chauhan stated that the number of well permits has significantly decreased compared to the same time last year. January to August last year, there were a total of 299 permits issued compared to 192 this year.

All Well Permits Issued	**Number**
January	23
February	16
March	25
April	23
May	34
June	34
July	19
August	16
September	2
Total	192

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

   a. **Discussion/Possible Action – Approval of Expense Report for July 2023 (Hailey-Stork)**

Mrs. Hailey-Stork stated that the only line item in the July expense report is the ACWA Joint Powers Authority Cyber Liability Insurance.

M/S/C (Kienow/Basgall) That the Board of Directors approved the Expense Report for July 2023, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

   b. **Discussion/Possible Action – Approval of the Financial Statements as of July 31, 2023**

Mrs. Hailey-Stork stated that the financial statements for July 31, 2023, are preliminary due to the audit for June not being complete. Mrs. Hailey-Stork stated that she does not anticipate any changes but if there are, they will be brought before the Board.

M/S/C (Buche/Moeller) That the Board of Directors approved the Financial Statements as of July 31, 2023, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

   c. **Unpaid Invoices Report – July 2023**

Mrs. Hailey-Stork stated that the only items remaining on the report are the retainage and various expenses related to the grant.

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

Mrs. Hailey-Stork stated that auditors are meticulously reviewing the audit, and due to the auditors being new, the process is taking longer to complete.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT (Chauhan)

a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan – Corrective Actions Update

Ms. Chauhan stated that they are actively coordinating with DWR, primarily to seek clarification on certain corrective action items. The first meeting with DWR is scheduled for tomorrow, September 29.

b. Agency Grant Project Updates

- Biola Community Services District – Biola Recharge Project
  - Turnout now due to be completed by April 2024.
  - Biola CSD likely to be the first severely disadvantaged community to claim full sustainability

- FID – Temporary Pumps at FMFCD Basins; Interconnect FMFCD Basins; Future Basins
  - FID continues to work on design, environmental, and funding for the approximately 400 acres of additional basins that were recently purchased
  - FID plans to start construction of the Kenneson-Sanchez Basin this fall

- Pinedale County Water District
  - Water supply agreement with FID to put water into Basin DH

- City of Kerman – Lions Park Intertie and Meter
  - Intertie project with FID canal system to discharge water to their reservoir
  - CEQA approved
  - Received grant funding from Prop 68 to complete project

Mr. Stretch explained that there are six new basins that are expected to become operational, with the goal of having them online by March of the upcoming year, at limited costs.

- Malaga County Water District
  - FMFCD Basin Intertie Project and Water Supply Agreement
  - Out to bid

c. Outreach / External Affairs Update

Ms. Chauhan mentioned that she had a busy week last week, engaging in various conferences and panels where she spoke and participated.

- Speaking Engagements
  - Public Policy Institute in California Event – Fresno State
    - Release of Managing Farmland document
  - American Planning Association Conference
    - SGMA implementation and how it affects current and future planning
  - Groundwater Resource Agency – Club Presentation
    - Opportunity to share about SGMA

- Social Media
  - Spotlighting Water Professionals for Water Professionals Week – October

- Website
  - Currently refreshing the GSP page to address outdated information and provide the latest updates
  - Includes the addition of a timeline for historical data

- Email Distribution

d. Representative Monitoring Network Update

Ms. Chauhan stated that they have received approval for the new monitoring well and are currently waiting for the Department of Water Resources to provide the schedule for drilling the well. Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) presented an item to their Board to grant an easement for drilling the well at the selected site.

e. Miscellaneous

Ms. Chauhan stated that they are actively involved in the County's planning process by reviewing incoming documents and providing comments and information on the water balance aspects of future projects in the planning process.

Ms. Chauhan stated that the Fresno County Stream Group is currently involved in a project related to the reoperation of the Big Dry Creek Reservoir, which is an FMFCD reservoir. The Army Corps has indicated that the reservoir can be used, but there is a requirement to remove the water almost as quickly as it is stored. The members of the Stream Group are actively working on an agreement with the Army Corps to obtain permission to store water in the reservoir; however, a study must be completed first to identify the necessary improvements that need to be made in order to facilitate water storage. The reservoir has the potential to store up to 30,000 acre-feet of water, and we anticipate the study will cost about $4 million.

President Prieto, Jr. asked who from the Stream Group is present at the meeting. Ms. Chauhan explained that those present are Scott Redelfs the City of Clovis Public Utilities Director and NKGSA Advisory Chair, Bill Stretch the Fresno Irrigation District General Manager, Brock Buche the City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities, and Brian Pacheco the Fresno County Supervisor. The fifth agency is FMFCD who are not present.

10. DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Pickens – nothing to report

Director Kienow – expressed appreciation for the Advisory Committee's significant contributions over the last few months

Director Prieto – nothing to report

Director Basgall – nothing to report

Director Moeller – nothing to report

Director Pacheco – nothing to report

Director Buche – nothing to report

Chairman Prieto closed the open session portion of the meeting at 6:45 p.m. and thanked those in the audience and staff for attending.

Closed session convened at 6:50 p.m.

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11. REPORT ON ACTION(S) TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

There was nothing to report from closed session.

12. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Chairman Prieto adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Submitted by,

Kassy D. Chauhan

Kassy Chauhan, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer