THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR
NOVEMBER 16, 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
City of Clovis – Alternate Director Drew Bessinger
At-Large Seat 7 (Fowler Packing) – Director Kyle Moeller
City of Fresno – Alternate Director Brock Buche

BOARD SEATS ABSENT
Garfield Water District – Director Karl Kienow

MEMBER STAFF PRESENT
Executive Officer Kassy Chauhan – North Kings GSA
Legal Counsel Andrew Aller – 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

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 6:00 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 to members of the public. Ms. Chauhan welcomed the participation from anyone participating from the public.

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

No changes to the agenda.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR
NOVEMBER 16, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.
2907 SOUTH MAPLE AVENUE – FRESNO, CA

TELECONFERENCE / IN-PERSON MEETING

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 – September 28, 2023

There were no corrections or suggestions to the September 28, 2023, meeting minutes.

M/S/C (Buche/Bessinger) That the Board of Directors approved the minutes of the September 28, 2023 regular Board meeting as presented by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Moeller, Bessinger, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – Kienow; Abstain – 0)

b. Discussion/Possible Action on 2024 Board Meeting Calendar (Chauhan)

Ms. Chauhan stated that the meeting dates for November and December have been adjusted due to the holidays, and the revised dates are reflected on the calendar.

M/S/C (Buche/Moeller) That the Board of Directors approved the 2024 Board Meeting Calendar as presented by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Moeller, Bessinger, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – Kienow; Abstain – 0)

c. Kings Subbasin Coordination Update

- Outreach on water year sent out and well received
  - Recharged over 500,000 af

Mr. Samuelian mentioned that Nancy Vogel, Deputy Secretary for Water at the Natural Resources Agency, acknowledged the outreach efforts and expressed appreciation for the local agencies' engagement.

Mr. Samuelian stated that the state notified the GSAs that the emergency funding for temporary projects to capture stormwater will be available again this year. The GSAs have until April 2024 to enter a contract, and once under contract, they will have 3 years to complete the work.

- Continuing work on three Primary Data Gap Studies
  - Well Mitigation Program, Confined Aquifer, and Interconnected Surface Water
  - Initiated Interbasin Interconnected Surface Water effort with Madera for San Joaquin River
    - Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) refers to the groundwater pumping that occurs in proximity to a river, leading to increased extraction of water from the river and resulting in losses in the river
    - Follow up meeting with Madera tomorrow
  - Basin level approach identified, then bring to technical committees
- Other GSP corrective actions will follow 3 studies
- Reviewing GSP Implementation Guidance Document
  - Addresses Annual Report requirements/review
  - Plan Amendment requirements
  - Every GSA will need to readopt their GSP
  - 5-year evaluation
- Tracking State Board process for other basins
  - Kings Basin working with DWR

Chairman Prieto, Jr. inquired about the authority of both the State Water Resources Control Board and the DWR to regulate the GSAs under the adopted legislation. Mr. Samuelian clarified that since the Kings Basin has been approved, it is not under the State Board's regulation, only expect them to provide comments.

- Fall water level readings – nearly all received from NKGSA agencies and others.
- Sent request for SGMA specific funding in future water bond
    - $1.5 billion for SGMA funding

TASK	2023					2024												2025
	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J
Confined Aquifer Study																		
ISW Studies																		
Basin Domestic Well Mitigation Program																		
GSA Specific Domestic Well Mitigation Plans																		
GSP Language Revisions																		
Admin Draft GSPs and Periodic Eval (PE) to GSAs																		
Draft GSPs & PE Posted for Comment																		
Draft GSP Revisions																		
Final GSP & PE Adoption by GSA Boards																		
GSP Posting to SGMA Portal																		

Mr. Samuelian explained that there are 10 months remaining to complete all the necessary work for the GSP update. This timeline aims to allow for a review, public notice, potential revisions, and adoption in January.

d. Water Conditions Update (Claes)

Ms. Chauhan stated that Mr. Claes was unable to attend the meeting so she would be providing a brief update.

CVP & San Joaquin River (as of November 16):

- Millerton Lake Storage: 147,000 af (528,000 af July 19)
- San Joaquin River Release: 428 cfs (River Restoration Flows)
- Friant-Kern Canal: 0 cfs
- Madera Canal: 276 cfs
- Friant Class 1 – 100% (COF 60,000 af)
- Friant Class 2 – 15% residual (FID 11,250 af)
- Friant-Kern Canal maintenance / project shutdown: November - January 2024

Kings River as of November 9, 2023:

- Pine Flat Storage: 564,298 af (211% of normal)
  - No entitlement for FID in October and November
- Pre-Project @ Piedra: 397 cfs
- FID Entitlement: 0 cfs
  - FID does not receive entitlement during October and November
- FID Pine Flat Storage: 53,354+/- af
- Total FID Diversion: 140 cfs (Kings), 0 cfs (CVP)
- Flood release ended July 24

Ms. Chauhan noted that with Pine Flat Storage reaching 211% of normal, the possibility of flood releases later this winter will be considered if early storms lead to a rise in the reservoir level.

Ms. Chauhan presented the Tulare Basin 6-Station Precipitation Index for Water Year 2024.

e. Advisory Committee Update (Redelfs)

Mr. Redelfs reported that the Advisory Committee had a special meeting earlier this month and took the following recommended actions.

Recommended Actions:

- Approval of the FY 2022-2023 Audit Report
- Approval of the Final Financial Statements as of 6/30/2023
- Approval of Expense Reports for August and September 2023
- Approval of the Financial Statements as of September 30, 2023

Ms. Chauhan and Mr. Redelfs explained to the Board that there were two changes to the roster for the Advisory Committee. Biola CSD added Josh Rogers and City of Kerman added Jesus Gonzalez as alternate representatives.

f. Well Intake Portal Update (Chauhan)

- Break 9 Developed Tool
  - External Beta Testing – Happening Now
    - Small Group of External Beta Testers
    - Gathering additional data from other sources
    - Confidentiality of Data
  - Soft Launch
  - Full Launch

Ms. Chauhan reported that external testing is underway with a small group of beta testers, including Director Moeller from Fowler Packing. She added that they are receiving valuable feedback from the beta testers, which will aid in addressing issues and improving the portal tool before the full rollout. Ms. Chauhan highlighted the collaboration with Break 9 to incorporate changes based on the testing phase. Additionally, efforts are being made to ensure the confidentiality of data, ensuring that users only see the information they input. Also, working on a well-defined process to ensure the accuracy of the information entered into the tool.

Ms. Chauhan addressed a director's question about the inclusion of well drilling logs in the tool. She confirmed that the tool would support the uploading of well drilling logs, and that the tool will also include construction details, well location information, and well completion reports.

g. Well Permitting Update (Chauhan)

Ms. Chauhan provided an update on the number of well permits, noting a significant decrease compared to the same period last year. From January to October last year, 340 permits were issued, while only 189 were issued this year. She anticipates a slow pace in November and December.

Ms. Chauhan shared that she received a call today that was related to a well that has been dry for some time. The caller is seeking assistance from Self-Help Enterprises for a replacement well and the application has been submitted. They inquired about the processing timeline. Ms. Chauhan clarified that, as it is a domestic well, her approval is not required. She noted that this is the first one she directly connected to a Self-Help project.

All Well Permits Issued	Number
January	23
February	16
March	25
April	23
May	34
June	34
July	19
August	19
September	22
October	21
November	1
Total	189

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

   a. **Discussion/Possible Action – Approval of 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements (Hailey-Stork/CJ Brown CPAs)**

Mrs. Hailey-Stork introduced Mr. Jonathan Abadesco from C.J. Brown and Company CPAs who attended via teleconference. This marks the first year that C.J. Brown & Company CPAs completed the audit. Mr. Abadesco commended Mrs. Hailey-Stork and her team for their excellent job in providing all the necessary documents for the audit.

Mr. Abadesco reported that the audit ending June 30, 2023, has been completed. Mr. Abadesco stated that they have issued an unmodified or clean opinion, indicating that the financial statements are in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Regarding the management report, they have determined that there are no material weaknesses or deficiencies in the controls.

Mr. Abadesco also reported that there was a positive change in net position, primarily due to revenue exceeding expenses, along with capital contributions from the Prop 68 grant. Although total revenues decreased slightly, it was likely due to lower member contributions during the year compared to the prior year. Total expenses increased due to the professional services incurred as a result of the Prop 68 grant.

Mrs. Hailey-Stork informed the Board that she has nothing else to add to the auditor's presentation.

M/S/C (Buche/Pickens) That the Board of Directors approved the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements as presented by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Moeller, Bessinger, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – Kienow; Abstain – 0)

Ms. Chauhan expressed appreciation to Mrs. Hailey-Stork and the auditor for their excellent work.

b. Discussion/Possible Action – Approval of the Final Financial Statements as of June 30, 2023 (Hailey-Stork)

Mrs. Hailey-Stork clarified that the financial statements presented here differ slightly from the draft because of adjusting the LAIF account to market value. These statements do align with the audited financial statements and serve as a representation of them.

M/S/C (Pickens/Bessinger) That the Board of Directors approved the Final Financial Statements as of June 30, 2023, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Moeller, Bessinger, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – Kienow; Abstain – 0)

c. Discussion/Possible Action – Approval of the Expense Reports for August and September 2023 (Hailey-Stork)

Mrs. Hailey-Stork stated that these are regular expenditures and are within the budget.

d. Discussion/Possible Action – Approval of the Financial Statements as of September 30, 2023 (Hailey-Stork)

Mrs. Hailey-Stork presented the financial statements for September 30, 2023.

M/S/C (Bessinger/Buche) That the Board of Directors approved the Expense Reports for August and September 2023 and the Financial Statements as of September 30, 2023, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Prieto, Jr., Buche, Moeller, Bessinger, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – Kienow; Abstain – 0)

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT (Chauhan)

a. Kings Basin Special Studies Update

Ms. Chauhan reported attending a public hearing in Hanford for the Tulare Lake Basin, where numerous attendees expressed their opinions. Common themes emerged during the meeting, including concerns about local control. GSA representatives urged the state board to provide them with the opportunity to determine how to create sustainable conditions, emphasizing that external intervention could disrupt the process. Another theme was the request for the state board to consider the progress made by the GSAs over the last six months before deciding on probation. Participants highlighted the significant work undertaken since receiving the notices in March to make improvements. Additionally, there was discussion about the challenge of defining sustainability when the objectives seem to be changing, stakeholders expressed their concerns to both the state board and DWR staff.

Ms. Chauhan mentioned having a conversation with a GSA manager earlier this week, where they shared insights about their direct discussion with state board members. There appears to be a willingness from the state board members to consider new information provided by the GSAs before deciding on whether probation is warranted.

Ms. Chauhan addressed a director's question regarding probationary status and the possibility of the state taking control. Ms. Chauhan explained that if a GSA is recommended for probation, and it is determined that they will be placed on probation, the state would step in. The GSA would then need to register, and subsequently, they would have to start paying a fee.

b. SGMA Implementation Projects Update

- Biola Community Services District – Biola Recharge Project
  - Completed by 4/2024

- FID – Temporary Pumps at FMFCD Basins; Interconnect FMFCD Basins; Future Basins; Kenneson-Sanchez Basin this fall

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

- City of Kerman – Lions Park Intertie and Meter
  - Materials have been ordered

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

Ms. Chauhan provided an update on the progress of SGMA implementation projects. Key projects, such as the Biola CSD project, the FID permanent interconnections with FMFCD basins, the FID Kenneson-Sanchez Basin, the Pinedale County project, and the City of Kerman's Lions Park intertie and meter project, are all advancing. The Biola CSD project, in particular, is making notable strides as the turnout has been installed.

Ms. Chauhan presented pictures of the Biola CSD turnout that was installed on FID's Herndon Canal and FID's Kenneson-Sanchez Basin which is currently under construction.

c. Outreach / External Affairs Update

- Kings Coordinated Outreach
  - Almost 1,000 views on Story Map
  - Distributed to Stakeholders and Policy Makers (DWR and SWRCB)
- Social Media
  - Highlighting SGMA Implementation Projects
  - GW Level Improvements

- Email Distribution

d. Representative Monitoring Network Update

- Improvements Needed
  - P&P Evaluating Monitoring Network Needs
    - Data Loggers/Telemetry
    - Dedicated Monitoring Wells
    - 2024 – Evaluate with Technical Committee – Plan for Future Improvements

Ms. Chauhan emphasized the significance of obtaining accurate data from the monitoring wells on a biannual basis. The reliance on existing privately owned wells has presented several challenges in obtaining the data. Provost and Pritchard is currently working on a memo that evaluates both short-term and long-term improvements to ensure a more reliable and consistent collection of data points. This is important because it is likely the primary factor that DWR will scrutinize in ongoing assessments to determine compliance status.

Ms. Chauhan stated that in 2024, they will assess the recommendations from Provost and Pritchard and promptly implement the necessary changes to the monitoring network. This includes installing data loggers and telemetry to enhance the frequency of data collection, providing more real-time data instead of relying solely on the two data points per year. Additionally, there is consideration for adding dedicated monitoring wells to fill in gaps and to overcome the challenges currently faced in obtaining data from privately owned wells.

Ms. Chauhan responded to a director's question about the number of wells by stating that currently, there are 32 representative monitoring wells. The limited number means that if a few wells cannot be read, it could pose a significant issue.

e. Miscellaneous

- Groundwater Level Conditions – October 2022 to October 2023
  - P&P Putting Data Together
  - Generally Good Improvement
  - Data Gaps
  - Other

Ms. Chauhan stated that she will be going over a map with Provost and Pritchard tomorrow which shows the groundwater level improvement or conditions from October 2022 to October 2023. Once the map is finalized, she will present it to the Board.

10. DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Pickens – nothing to report

Director Kienow – absent

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Chairman Prieto adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

Submitted by,

Kassy D. Chauhan

Kassy Chauhan, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer