NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Advisory Committee Meeting – March 14, 2025

In-Person and Teleconference Meeting

Please Note: All Committee Members are required to attend in person unless provisions of AB2449 have been satisfied.

Please notify Laurie Kiser immediately if you or your designated alternate(s) are unable to attend the Advisory Committee Meeting at the City of Clovis Public Safety Room on March 14, 2025.

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

AGENDA
NKGSA Advisory Committee – Regular Meeting
March 14, 2025, 1:30 PM

TELECONFERENCE and IN-PERSON MEETING

The NKGSA is offering its Advisory Committee meeting both via teleconference and in-person. Members of the public are encouraged to participate either in person at the City of Clovis Public Safety Community Room, 1233 Fifth Street, Clovis, CA, or virtually using the information provided below. All committee members participating in the meeting will be in person.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/98104275024?pwd=RTBvcHNTZ2xaOXRHN1czeS9uZGRqUT09
Meeting ID: 981 0427 5024
Passcode: 239389

By Phone:
1 (669) 900 - 6833
Meeting ID: 981 0427 5024
Passcode: 239389

Written and Verbal Comments

- Members of the public participating virtually will have an opportunity to provide public comments during the meeting under Agenda Item No. 2 and following each agenda item discussion. No prior arrangements are required to be able to make public comment but comments are limited to three (3) minutes.

- Written Comments can also be provided up to one hour prior to the scheduled meeting. Written comments received in advance of the meeting 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.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Public Presentations
    a. UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SAREP) – SGMA Small Farms Technical Assistance Program – Ngodoo Atume and Erik Rodriguez

3. Approval of Minutes:
    a. Approval of Minutes from January 10, 2025, Regular Meeting

4. Financial Report
    a. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of the Expense Reports for December 2024 and January 2025 (Koehn)
    b. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Financial Statements as of January 31, 2025 (Koehn)

5. Receive – Basin Coordination Update (Samuelian)

6. Administrative
    a. Domestic Well Mitigation Program Update
    b. Discussion/Possible Action – Recommend Approval of North Kings GSA Domestic Well Mitigation Program Revolving Fund Policy - NKGSA-ACCT-511 (Chauhan)
    c. 2025 Goals and Priorities for North Kings GSA
    d. 2025 Well Permitting Update (Chauhan)
    e. Well Registration Program Update and Next Steps (Chauhan)

7. Workgroup Updates and Actions
    a. Technical Workgroup Update (Claes)

8. Member Agency/Committee Member Reports
    a. Advisory Committee/Member Agency Reports/Updates
        i. Water Supply Update (Claes)

9. Executive Officer Update (Chauhan)
    a. SGMA Implementation Projects Update
    b. Outreach / External Affairs Update
    c. Representative Monitoring Network Update
    d. Miscellaneous

10. Adjourn

Next Meeting: April 11, 2025

3.a – MEETING MINUTES – January 10, 2025

MINUTES
(Preliminary – Subject to Revision/Approval at Next Meeting)

NKGSA Advisory Committee Meeting
January 10, 2025

IN-PERSON AND TELECONFERENCE

In attendance:

**Adam Claes (Fresno Irrigation District)
*Jarrod Takemoto (Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District)
*Paul Armendariz (City of Clovis)
*Tony White (City of Fresno)
*Nick Keller (Garfield Water District)
*Roy Jimenez (Fresno County)
*Jesus Gonzalez (City of Kerman)
Kassy Chauhan (NKGSA)
Andrew Aller (NKGSA legal counsel)
Ronnie Samuelian (Provost & Pritchard)
Lisa Koehn (Clovis)
Don Wright (Reporter)
Pat Richutti (PR Farms)

** - Committee Chair
* - Voting representative on Advisory Committee

*__**Note:__ With the current state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted in-person at the City of Clovis Public Safety Community Room (1233 Fifth Street, Clovis, CA 93612) as well as via web conference for members of the public wishing to participate remotely.*

Item 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:33 PM.

Instructions:
Instructions for participation by both remote and in-person attendees were given by Executive Officer Kassy Chauhan. Both written and verbal comments are accepted by all attendees and time will be made after each agenda item for comments to be heard.

Members of the Advisory Committee attended in person and were present/absent as follows:

Agency Name	Present/Absent	Name of Person
Bakman Water Company	Absent	---
Biola CSD	Absent	---
City of Clovis	Present	Paul Armendariz
City of Fresno	Present	Tony White
City of Kerman	Present	Jesus Gonzalez
Fresno County	Present	Roy Jimenez
Fresno Irrigation District	Present	Adam Claes*
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District	Present	Jarrod Takemoto
Garfield Water District	Present	Nick Keller

*Vice Chair Adam Claes acting as Committee Chair at this meeting.

Item 2. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

Item 3. Approval of Minutes

Item 3a. Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2024 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes made by member Takemoto; second by member Keller. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0, 2 absent.

Item 3b. Approval of Minutes from November 8, 2024 Regular Meeting

There was a correction made to the minutes for the 11/08/24 meeting to note Adam Claes from Fresno Irrigation District as *not present*.

Motion to approve the minutes made by member Keller; second by member Armendariz. Motion passed 5-0, with 2 abstaining (FMFCD and Fresno County), 2 absent.

Item 4. Financial Report

Item 4a. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Expense Reports for October and November 2024
(Presented by Lisa Koehn)

For the month of October, expenses totaled $46,192.13.

For the month of November, expenses totaled $58,851.29.

Motion to recommend approval of the expense reports made by member Armendariz, second by member Takemoto. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0, 2 absent.

Item 4b. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Financial Statements as of November 30, 2024
(Presented by Lisa Koehn)

As of November 30, 2024, total assets were $1,898,624.39. A copy of the financial statement was included in the meeting packet.

Motion to recommend approval of the financial statements made by member Jimenez; second by member Armendariz. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0, 2 absent.

Item 5. Receive – Basin Coordination Update
(Presented by Ronnie Samuelian)

The domestic well mitigation program has begun. The interconnected surface water discussions with other agencies have been ongoing and will be discussed further in Item 6 on the agenda. Data has been submitted to DWR, primarily water level data. Next

month, the process will start to discuss an allocation framework. Work has begun on the annual report. The basin is considering hiring a lobbyist to provide more direct support.

Three pressing items for the GSAs (due by the end of the month) are as follows:

1. Approving revisions to the GSP – This isn't a formal plan amendment, but rather revisions to the approved GSPs. The revisions will be addressing the recommended corrective actions from DWR's approval letter sent in August. The public comment period ended as of last month.
2. Modifications to Exhibit B of the Coordination Agreement – Data and methodology changes were made as part of addressing DWR's recommended corrective actions. Exhibit B is intended to be "evergreen" so that future changes in data/methodology can be addressed in annual reports and/or periodic evaluations.
3. Periodic evaluations – There will be one periodic evaluation submitted for the entire basin. Revised GSPs and a revised Exhibit B to the Coordination Agreement will be submitted with the periodic evaluation.

Item 6. Administrative

Item 6a. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of the Revised Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the North Kings GSA

Motion to recommend approval of the revised GSP made by member Keller; second by member Takemoto. Motion approved unanimously, 7-0, 2 absent.

Item 6b. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Exhibit B of the Kings Basin Coordination Agreement

The copy of Exhibit B was sent out separately from the original meeting packet, but copies were made available at the meeting.

The purpose of Exhibit B is to make sure there is alignment between the methodology referenced in the Coordination Agreement and the GSP. The main change that was made in the GSP methodology was related to the change in base period. The amendments to Exhibit B reflect the updated base period and methodology used in the updated GSPs.

Motion to recommend approval of Exhibit B made by member Jimenez; second by member Gonzalez. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0, 2 absent.

Item 6c. Discussion on the Kings Basin Periodic Evaluation

A periodic evaluation is submitted every 5 years. It works as an audit and a detailed interpretation of how implementation of the GSP is taking place. DWR will be looking at any minimum threshold exceedances or any failures to meet certain milestones, if project and management actions are being implemented, or if there are data gaps.

Item 6d. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Entering into the Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, Friant Water Authority, Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency, McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency for Coordination and Efforts on Interconnected Surface Water Evaluations on the San Joaquin River and Authorizing Executive Officer to Execute

This is an identified data gap and is being addressed through a multi-organization effort. The MOU serves as a way to document and formalize the work being done by these organizations to address the issue.

Motion to recommend approval of entering into the MOU made by member Keller; second by member Jimenez. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Item 6e. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Entering into Agreement with California State University, Fresno Foundation as Sub Recipient for the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program Grant for the Climate Resiliency through Regional Water Recharge in the San Joaquin Valley Project

A copy of the agreement was included in the meeting packet. California State University, Fresno Foundation received grant funding from the State to provide information as it relates to recharge efforts. The North Kings GSA has been assisting the Foundation with this project in an advisory role, and would be eligible to receive reimbursement for expenses related to this work.

Motion to recommend entering into the agreement made by member Jimenez; second by member Keller. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0, 2 absent.

Item 6f. ACWA JPIA President's Special Recognition Award

This is an annual acknowledgement that there have not been any claims from the North Kings GSA's insurance, so this award was received from ACWA JPIA.

Item 6g. 2024 Well Permitting Update
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

In 2024, a total of 229 permits were issued, although it should be noted that the issuing of a permit doesn't necessarily mean that the well was drilled. The total in 2023 was 293. Of the 229 total permits issued in 2024, 178 were for private/domestic wells. So far in 2025, two private/domestic well permit applications have been submitted.

Item 6h. Well Registration Progress Update
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

The well registration tool remains available on the website. The response so far has been low, but the outreach has also been minimal due to other priorities. More robust outreach will be planned in the future.

Item 7. Workgroup Updates and Actions

Item 7a. Technical Workgroup Update
(Presented by Adam Claes)

The workgroup did not meet in December. The focus for the last few months has been the domestic well mitigation program cost share alternatives. Ultimately, 18 different alternatives have been considered. Future meetings will continue to focus on these potential alternatives to try to determine a recommendation, hopefully within the next quarter.

Item 8. Member Agency / Committee Member Reports

Item 8a. Advisory Committee/Member Agency Reports/Updates

i. **Water Supply Update**
(Presented by Member Claes)

No rain was received in October 2024. There was one significant storm in November 2024 that resulted in about double the average amount of rainfall, and there were a few minor storms in December 2024. So far, no rainfall has been received in January and no major storms are forecasted.

A snow water content graph showed that we're currently ahead of this same time in 2024, despite the overall low rainfall.

ii. **City of Kerman – Lion Park Recharge and Meter Project Completion**
(Presented by Member Gonzalez)

The project was completed using grant funding, and is significant because the City of Kerman is entirely reliant on groundwater. The project consisted of construction of a vault, metering, piping, and valves. Construction has now concluded and was accepted by Council in late October. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in December.

Item 9. Executive Officer Update
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

Item 9a. SGMA Implementation Projects Update
Member agencies are encouraged to submit any projects. Guidelines for funding have not yet been released, but there will be grant funding, so projects should be ready to go.

Item 9b. Outreach / External Affairs Update
Social media continues to be an active platform. The website now features the minimum well depth mapping tool for individuals who are planning to drill a well. Kassy participated in a panel discussion at the ACWA conference in December.

Item 9c. Representative Monitoring Network Update
There has been little movement on the technical services well that is being paid for by DWR. The NKGSA is working with FMFCD to get an agreement in place for

that well. It is estimated to be completed in late spring or summer. The location of this well will assist with bridging a data gap.

Item 9d. Miscellaneous
There was a change in the reporting requirements for Form 700s for GSA board members. The legal team is currently researching the change.

At the February Advisory Committee meeting, there will be a discussion on the 2025 goals and priorities for the group.

Item 10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM.

Next Meeting: February 14, 2025

4 (a-b) - FINANCIAL REPORT – Expense Reports – December 2024 and January 2025; Financial Statements Through January 31, 2025

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM NO:	**4 (a-b)**
Executive Officer:	KDC

NKGSA-
REPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO: Chair and Advisory Committee Members

FROM: DeAnn Stork – Fiscal Agent

DATE: March 10, 2025

SUBJECT: Financial Update

ATTACHMENTS:
(A) NKGSA – Expense Report – December 2024
(B) NKGSA – Expense Report – January 2025
(C) Financial Statements as of January 31, 2025

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

RECOMMENDATION

For the Advisory Committee to recommend approval of the Expense Reports for December 2024 and January 2025, and Financial Statements as of January 31, 2025, to the NKGSA Board of Directors.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The fiscal agent, DeAnn Hailey, has prepared the monthly expense reports through January 2025 (Attachments A and B) and the financial statements as of January 31, 2025 (Attachment C). All expenses are within the budget amounts and no unexpected expenses were noted. The subscription for the bookkeeping software, Quick Books, has increased in price and an adjustment to the budget for the Office Supplies budget line item will be needed to account for the increased cost.

The inclusion of the financial reports for consideration by the NKGSA Advisory Committee is a procedural change implemented in October 2020 to allow for review prior to submittal to the NKGSA Board of Directors for approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact is shown on the attached reports. Expenses are in line with the amounts included in the NKGSA 2024-2025 Budget.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

The reports represent expenses and revenues for the NKGSA for this reporting period.

ACTIONS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The expense reports and financial statements will be provided to the NKGSA Board of Directors for approval at its special board meeting on March 27, 2025.

Prepared by: DeAnn Stork

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Transaction List with Splits

December 2024

DATE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
ACWA/Joint Powers Insurance Authority					
12/01/2024	466	ACWA/Joint Powers Insurance Authority		Accounts Payable	1,969.00
			Liability Insurance 10/1/2024-9/30/2025	Insurance	1,969.00
Constant Contact, Inc.					
12/27/2024		Constant Contact, Inc.		BMO - Checking Account	(52.00)
				Public Information	52.00
Fresno Irrigation District					
12/16/2024	7537	Fresno Irrigation District		Accounts Payable	7,077.67
			November 2024 Hours	Staff Expense:Executive Officer	6,066.75
			November 2024 Fiscal Agent Hours	Staff Expense:Supporting Staff (FID)	376.53
			November 2024 Recording Secretary Hours	Staff Expense:Supporting Staff (FID)	169.75
			November 2024 Engineering Tech II Hours	Staff Expense:Supporting Staff (FID)	64.02
			November 2024 Admin Fee 6%	Staff Expense:Supporting Staff (FID)	400.62
Intuit QuickBooks Online					
12/15/2024		Intuit QuickBooks Online		BMO - Checking Account	(90.00)
				Office Supplies	90.00
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group					
12/27/2024	116048	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		Accounts Payable	11,874.80
			On-going GEN	Professional Services:Engineering Consultant	2,950.00
			On-going PUB	Public Information	8,924.80
12/30/2024	116073	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		Accounts Payable	2,918.64
			North Kings GSA DWM 001	Project Costs	2,918.64
12/30/2024	116078	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		Accounts Payable	5,677.00
			Kings Basin Coord COR	Kings Basin Coordination	5,000.00
			Kings Basin Coord GWP	Kings Basin Coordination	529.00
			Kings Basin Coord REP	Kings Basin Coordination	148.00

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Transaction List with Splits

January 2025

DATE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo					
01/01/2025	734878	Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo		Accounts Payable	3,587.45
			November 2024 Legal	Legal	3,587.45
01/01/2025	736077	Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo		Accounts Payable	1,328.78
			December 2024 Legal	Legal	1,328.78
01/31/2025	739582	Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo		Accounts Payable	5,376.55
			January 2025 Legal	Legal	5,376.55
C.J. Brown & Company CPAs					
01/31/2025	20250131	C.J. Brown & Company CPAs		Accounts Payable	300.00
			Preparation of State Controller's Report	Audit Expense	300.00
Constant Contact, Inc.					
01/27/2025		Constant Contact, Inc.		Accounts Payable	56.00
				Public Information	56.00
Fresno Irrigation District					
01/15/2025	07548	Fresno Irrigation District		Accounts Payable	6,229.09
			December 2024 Hours	Staff Expense:Executive Officer	5,257.85
			December 2024 Fiscal Agent Hours	Staff Expense:Supporting Staff (FID)	251.02
			December 2024 Recording Secretary Hours	Staff Expense:Supporting Staff (FID)	271.60
			December 2024 Engineering Tech II Hours	Staff Expense:Supporting Staff (FID)	96.03
			December 2024 Admin Fee 6%	Staff Expense:Supporting Staff (FID)	352.59
Intuit QuickBooks Online					
01/15/2025	10001365367220	Intuit QuickBooks Online		BMO - Checking Account	(90.00)
				Office Supplies	90.00
01/23/2025		Intuit QuickBooks Online		Accounts Payable	5.99
			1099 Processing 2024	Office Supplies	5.99
Kings River Conservation District					
01/31/2025	5115	Kings River Conservation District		Accounts Payable	1,223.98
			2024 Subsidence monitoring data services	Public Information	1,223.98
Onset Computer Corporation					
01/13/2025	295606	Onset Computer Corporation		Accounts Payable	10,838.05
				Project Costs	10,838.05
01/14/2025	295633	Onset Computer Corporation		Accounts Payable	14,986.32
				Project Costs	14,986.32
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group					
01/09/2025	116258	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		Accounts Payable	17,049.67
			On-going GEN	Professional Services:Engineering Consultant	5,401.37
			On-going PUB	Public Information	11,648.30
01/10/2025	116289	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		Accounts Payable	456.41
			North Kings GSA DWM 001	Project Costs	456.41

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Transaction List with Splits

January 2025

DATE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
01/10/2025	116294	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		Accounts Payable	9,317.40
			Kings Basin Coord COR	Kings Basin Coordination	6,919.04
			Kings Basin Coord GWP	Kings Basin Coordination	1,364.00
			Kings Basin Coord REP	Kings Basin Coordination	1,034.36

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2025

ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
BMO - Checking Account		322,497.83
BMO - Money Market Account		916,036.68
LAIF		542,944.26
Total Bank Accounts	**$**	**1,781,478.77**
Total Current Assets	**$**	**1,781,478.77**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$**	**1,781,478.77**
LIABILITIES & NET POSITION		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Accounts Payable		28,883.90
Total Accounts Payable	**$**	**28,883.90**
Total Current Liabilities	**$**	**28,883.90**
Total Liabilities	**$**	**28,883.90**
Net Position		
Net Investment		705,555.41
Reserves - Legal Fund		500,000.00
Reserves - Well Mitigation Program		25,000.00
Net Income		522,039.46
Total Net Position	**$**	**1,752,594.87**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET POSITION	**$**	**1,781,478.77**

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Budget vs. Actuals
July 2024 - January 2025

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Interested Party Contribution	7,113.20	7,113.20	0.00	100.00%
Member/Contracting Entity			0.00	
Bakman Water Company	5,145.29	5,145.29	0.00	100.00%
Biola Community Services Distr	1,393.16	1,393.16	0.00	100.00%
City of Clovis	39,554.47	39,554.47	0.00	100.00%
City of Fresno	186,897.93	186,897.93	0.00	100.00%
City of Kerman	5,386.49	5,386.49	0.00	100.00%
County of Fresno	100,333.31	100,333.31	0.00	100.00%
Fresno Irrigation District	430,696.93	430,696.93	0.00	100.00%
Garfield Water District	4,662.92	4,662.92	0.00	100.00%
International Water District	1,929.49	1,929.49	0.00	100.00%
Total Member/Contracting Entity	**$ 775,999.99**	**$ 775,999.99**	**$ 0.00**	**100.00%**
Total Income	**$ 783,113.19**	**$ 783,113.19**	**$ 0.00**	**100.00%**
Expenses				
Audit Expense	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	100.00%
Dues and Subscriptions		3,315.00	-3,315.00	0.00%
Insurance	2,069.00	2,085.00	-16.00	99.23%
Kings Basin Coordination	53,539.40	90,000.00	-36,460.60	59.49%
Legal	15,323.26	40,000.00	-24,676.74	38.31%
Office Supplies	635.99	600.00	35.99	106.00%
Professional Services	4,051.40	0.00	4,051.40	
Engineering Consultant	43,983.49	100,000.00	-56,016.51	43.98%
Security Services		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%
Total Professional Services	**$ 48,034.89**	**$ 101,000.00**	**-$ 52,965.11**	**47.56%**
Project Costs	50,194.92	700,000.00	-649,805.08	7.17%
Public Information	62,110.02	110,000.00	-47,889.98	56.46%
Staff Expense			0.00	
Executive Officer	30,738.20	100,000.00	-69,261.80	30.74%
Supporting Staff (FID)	6,938.64	30,000.00	-23,061.36	23.13%
Total Staff Expense	**$ 37,676.84**	**$ 130,000.00**	**-$ 92,323.16**	**28.98%**
Total Expenses	**$ 275,584.32**	**$ 1,183,000.00**	**-$ 907,415.68**	**23.30%**
Net Operating Income	**$ 507,528.87**	**-$ 399,886.81**	**$ 907,415.68**	**-126.92%**
Other Income				
Interest Income	12,578.38	25,000.00	-12,421.62	50.31%
Unrealized Gain/Loss	1,932.21		1,932.21	
Total Other Income	**$ 14,510.59**	**$ 25,000.00**	**-$ 10,489.41**	**58.04%**
Change in Net Position	**$ 522,039.46**	**-$ 374,886.81**	**$ 896,926.27**	**-139.25%**

6 (a - b) – NKGSA Draft Policy (NKGSA-ACCT-511) Domestic Well Mitigation Program Revolving Fund and Funding Update

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM NO: **6 (a-b)**
Executive Officer: KDC

NKGSA-
REPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO: Chair and Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Kassy Chauhan, P.E.

DATE: March 10, 2025

SUBJECT: Discuss NKGSA Policy NKGSA-ACCT-511 Domestic Well Mitigation Program Revolving Fund Policy and Funding for Year 2 of the Domestic Well Mitigation Program for the North Kings GSA.

ATTACHMENTS: (A) NKGSA-ACCT-511 – Domestic Well Mitigation Program Revolving Fund Policy

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

RECOMMENDATION

For the Advisory Committee to recommend approval of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NKGSA) Policy NKGSA-ACCT-511: Domestic Well Mitigation Program Revolving Fund Policy to the NKGSA Board of Directors for adoption at the March 27, 2025, board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North Kings GSA submitted a revised groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) on January 31,2025, to address corrective actions required by Department of Water Resources (DWR) in its GSP determination letter. One of the corrective actions was the launch of a domestic well mitigation program. The Board of Directors adopted a policy (NKGSA 2024-002) acknowledging its commitment to mitigate for domestic wells impacted by declining water levels as it works to reach sustainability in 2040. The Domestic Well Mitigation Program launched in October 2025 and is administered in accordance with the Kings Subbasin Domestic Well Mitigation Program Rules and Regulations dated April 2024.

Funding for Year 1 of the program (July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025) was approved at $500,000 in the FY 2024-2025 budget and a portion was being funded by reserves and the remainder was funded by collecting contributions from the member agencies according to the current administrative split for NKGSA expenses. The Year 1 budget was limited but allowed the NKGSA to begin implementation of the program including administrative tasks, establishing the needed contracts and to begin providing mitigation services. To date, approximately $40,000.00 has been expended which is primarily for the development of the administrative portal, website and other items to support implementation. The North Kings GSA is cost-sharing in those expenses with three of the other Kings Subbasin GSAs (Central Kings, Kings River East and North Fork Kings GSAs). There have not been any requests for domestic well mitigation program support in the North Kings GSA boundary since the program was launched.

The funding for the long term domestic well mitigation program has been a priority for the Technical Workgroup for the last six months and to date, there has not been consensus on a long-term funding program. However, the Technical Workgroup has had many discussions about the program and funding options and is recommending moving forward with the funding recommendation for Year 2 of the program. Having the Year 2 funding approved will allow for the program to continue without interruption due to lack of funding but will also provide the individual agencies time to generate the needed revenues to support the program long term. Many iterations of alternatives were evaluated, and it was agreed that 25% of the total program budget should be paid for according to the current administrative cost-share percentages. The remaining balances and agency contributions were negotiated, and the Year 2 funding amounts are summarized in the table below:

Agency	Acreage Served	GSA Admin Cost Share	GSA Admin Portion	Remaining Portion	Total
FID	170058	55.67%	$139,175	$285,300	$424,475
Fresno	75659	24.72%	$61,800	$38,200	$100,000
Clovis	15294	4.92%	$12,300	$7,700	$20,000
Bakman	1994	0.64%	$1,600		$1,600
Kerman	2089	0.67%	$1,675		$1,675
Fresno County	38807	12.48%	$31,200	$168,800	$200,000
Garfield	1809	0.58%	$1,450		$1,450
Biola	237	0.08%	$200		$200
International	736	0.24%	$600		$600
		Total Funding =	$250,000	$500,000	$750,000

It was agreed that the total budget for Year 2 will be $1M but $750,000 will be collected from member agencies and the remaining balance will be from the funds that were not used from the Year 1 revenues set aside for the domestic well mitigation program.

NKGSA-ACCT-511

To ensure there is a clear understanding of how the funds set aside for the domestic well mitigation program are administered and to ensure there is long-term funding in the future for the

mitigation program, the North Kings GSA developed a policy, NKGSA-ACCT-511, Domestic Well Mitigation Program Revolving Fund Policy. The Policy describes the purpose of the program, how the funds will be used and what happens to unused funds if the program is dissolved.

The purpose of the policy is for the NKGSA to ensure the stability of the program and establish the target fund as being equal to three years of average program expenses, based on the most recent three years, or $3M, whichever is less. Having three years of expenses or at least $3M allows the Program to continue even when there is increased need for the program. All funds collected for the Program will be set aside in a revolving fund and will roll over year-to-year. The total amount collected annually will be at the sole discretion of the NKGSA Board of Directors through the annual approval of the NKGSA Operating Budget. Any unused funds will be returned to the contributing agencies if the program is dissolved.

FISCAL IMPACT

Implementation of the domestic well mitigation program could have a significant fiscal impact on the NKGSA as there are about 489 wells anticipated to go dry between now and 2040 based on where the minimum thresholds have been set. The first year of implementation funding was approved to be $500,000.00 which allowed for the program to be ramped up gradually given the available funding and provided additional time to finalize the long-term funding strategy. The long-term funding needs based on 489 wells going dry and needing mitigation, with proration, is estimated to be approximately $12.M. It is believed that many of the wells that are projected to go dry have already been mitigated so the actual costs could be significantly less than projected. As such, in Year 2, it is recommended that an additional $750,000 be collected from member agencies and the remaining funds from Year 1 be set aside for the program expenses in Year 2. The Policy establishes the Program Fund and prescribes how the Program Fund will be used and the monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure the Advisory Committee and Board of Directors are informed regarding use of Program Funds.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

The NKGSA is obligated per the DWR GSP Determination Letter to have a domestic well mitigation program and be mitigating for domestic wells that go dry due to groundwater pumping or groundwater level declines. The recommended funding for Year 2 will ensure the Program is fully funded in Year 2 and the Policy (NKGSA-ACCT-511) establishes the Program Fund and how it will be administered which is different than the general operating reserve which is governed by NKGSA-ACCT-510. Upon recommendation from the Advisory Committee, the Board of Directors will consider adoption of the NKGSA Policy (NKGSA-ACCT-511) at the March 27, 2025, board meeting along with an update on the recommended funding for Year 2 of the Program.

ACTIONS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The NKGSA Board of Directors will consider adoption of NKGSA Policy NKGSA-ACCT-511 the proposal for Year 2 funding at the March 27, 2025, board meeting.

Prepared by: Kassy D. Chauhan

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Policy No: NKGSA – ACCT-511
Policy Title: Domestic Well Mitigation Program Revolving Fund Policy
Board Approval Date:
Revision/Review Date:

Introduction

The North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) shall create and maintain a Domestic Well Mitigation Program revolving fund (FUND) equivalent to $3,000,000.00, or at least three (3) years of Domestic Well Mitigation Program (PROGRAM) expenses based on the most recent three years of expenditures. These funds will be used to mitigate for domestic wells going dry within the Agency boundary in accordance with the Kings Basin Domestic Well Mitigation Program Rules and Regulations, approved by the Agency Board of Directors.

Purpose

The purpose of the PROGRAM FUND Policy is for the Agency is to ensure the stability of the PROGRAM. The PROGRAM FUND is intended to provide a source of funds to mitigate for domestic wells that go dry due to declining water levels within the Agency boundary. Creation of the PROGRAM FUND ensures there is adequate funding to cover expenses associated with mitigating for impacted domestic wells in accordance with the Kings Basin Domestic Well Mitigation Program Rules and Regulations. Each year, the Agency Board of Directors will approve funding through the regular budget approval process for the current year's PROGRAM expenses. Any funds remaining in the PROGRAM budget line item at the close of the fiscal year will be rolled over to the PROGRAM FUND until the total amount in the PROGRAM FUND is equal to $3,000,000.00 or at least three (3) years of average Domestic Well Mitigation Program expenses as explained later in this policy, whichever is less.

Maintaining a PROGRAM FUND allows a continuous funding source for the PROGRAM which is vital given significant variability in PROGRAM expenses due to various hydrologic conditions, the associated PROGRAM demands and the potential for changes in regulatory requirements associated with the PROGRAM. The PROGRAM FUND is not intended to replace a permanent loss of funds or eliminate an ongoing budget gap. Given the variability in PROGRAM demands, it is the intention of the Agency for PROGRAM FUNDS to be used to cover PROGRAM expenses exclusively and without the limitations of the fiscal year operations budget. The PROGRAM FUND Policy will be implemented in concert with the other governance and financial policies of the Agency and is intended to support the goals and strategies contained in these related policies and in strategic and operational plans. The Agency Board of Directors will maintain authority to approve the annual funding for the PROGRAM through the budget approval process, until the PROGRAM cap is reached.

Definitions and Goals

The PROGRAM FUND is defined as the designated fund set aside by action of the Agency Board of Directors. The minimum amount to be designated for the PROGRAM FUND will be an amount sufficient to maintain the PROGRAM for one year. The PROGRAM FUND serves a dynamic role and will be reviewed and adjusted in response to internal and external changes.

The target PROGRAM FUND is equal to three years of average PROGRAM expenses based on the most recent three years, or $3M, whichever is less, with the understanding that due to variable climate conditions, the demands of the PROGRAM may fluctuate significantly from year to year.

The amount of the PROGRAM FUND will be calculated each year after approval of the revised annual budget, reported to the Advisory Committee, and included in the regular financial reports.

Accounting for Reserves

The PROGRAM FUND will be recorded in the financial records as Domestic Well Mitigation Program Revolving Fund. The PROGRAM will be funded and available in cash or cash equivalent funds and will be commingled with the general cash and investment accounts of the agency.

Funding of Reserves

The PROGRAM FUND will be funded with any budgeted but unexpended PROGRAM FUNDS each year until the minimum PROGRAM FUND amount is reached. The Board of Directors may from time to time direct that a other budgeted revenues be set aside for PROGRAM FUND.

Use of PROGRAM FUND

Use of the PROGRAM FUND is subject to the provisions of NKGSA-2021-002 (Signing and Spending Authority Policy) and the following three steps:

1. Identification of appropriate use of PROGRAM FUNDS. The Executive Officer and Fiscal Agent will identify the need for access to PROGRAM FUNDS and confirm that the use is consistent with the purpose of the PROGRAM FUND as described in this Policy. This step requires analysis of the reason for the expenditure and ensuring mitigation expenses are determined based on qualified activities included in the Domestic Well Mitigation Program Rules and Regulations.

2. Authority to use PROGRAM FUNDS. Authority for use of PROGRAM FUNDS is delegated to the Executive Officer in accordance with the Rules and Regulations for the Domestic Well Mitigation Program. The use of PROGRAM FUNDS will be reported to the Advisory Committee and Agency Board of Directors at scheduled meetings, accompanied by a description of the use of funds and PROGRAM FUND balances.

3. Reporting and monitoring. The Executive Officer is responsible for ensuring that the PROGRAM FUND is maintained and used only as described in this Policy. The Fiscal Agent will maintain records of the use of PROGRAM FUNDS including balances and individual Agency contributions. PROGRAM FUND reports will be provided to the Board of Directors each month.

Each member agency of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency will be contributing to the PROGRAM FUND based on the approved PROGRAM contributions. The Fiscal Agent will track member agency contributions to the PROGRAM FUND along with the total PROGRAM FUND accounting. Member agencies can inquire at any time which portion of the total PROGRAM FUND is attributed to their agency.

PROGRAM FUND Dissolution

In the event the PROGRAM FUND is dissolved as directed by the AGENCY Board of Directors, each agency would be credited to their member agency participation balance the portion their agency has contributed. Interest earned from the revenues from the PROGRAM FUND will be credited to the member agencies based on their portion of the total PROGRAM FUNDING.

Relationship to Other Policies

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency shall maintain the following, existing policies (as amended from time to time), which may contain provisions that affect the creation, sufficiency, and management of the PROGRAM FUND.

- Financial Reporting Policy (NKGSA-ACCT-510)
- Budget Policy (NKGSA-ACCT-505)
- Investment Policy (NKGSA-ACCT-507)
- Operating Reserves (NKGSA-ACCT-506)

Review of Policy

This Policy will be reviewed by the Executive Officer and Fiscal Agent as needed if warranted by internal or external events or changes. Amendments to the Policy will be recommended by staff to the Board of Directors following approval by the NKGSA Advisory Committee.

6 (c) – 2024 Year in Review and 2025 Goals and Priorities

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM NO:	6 (c)
Executive Officer:	KDC

NKGSA-
REPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

TO: Chair and Committee Members

FROM: Executive Officer – Kassy Chauhan

DATE: March 10, 2025

SUBJECT: NKGSA 2025 Goals and Priorities

ATTACHMENTS: None

2024 Year in Review

2024 was another busy year for the North Kings GSA. In August 2023, the Department of Water Resource (DWR) determined the groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) for the Kings Basin were approved but contained corrective actions – 12 total, needing to be addressed in the revised GSPs submitted in January 2024. Much of 2024 was consumed with completing the necessary studies and coordination efforts to address the corrective actions and update the GSP.

While 2024 was an average hydrologic water year, the North Kings GSA continued to experience some benefits from the 2023 water year in which record amounts of recharge was completed. The irrigation season lasted five months in which slightly more than 500,000 acre-feet of surface water was imported into the FID boundary and the North Kings GSA. As such, the semi-annual water level measurements showed only slight declines in some areas and the total number of well drilling permits issued in 2024 was 229 compared to 292 in 2023.

The financial position of the NKGSA also remained strong. The FY 2024-2025 budget included for the first time funding to launch the domestic well mitigation program to provide mitigation assistance for private landowners whose domestic well went dry due to groundwater level declines. The domestic well mitigation program was launched in October 2024, and information is available at www.mydrywell.org. In addition, the NKGSA continued to invest its reserves in the local agency investment fund (LAIF) which provided much higher returns than traditional savings accounts.

NKGSA began working with Friant Water Authority, United States Bureau of Reclamation, Madera County GSA and McMullin Area GSA on an interconnected surface water data gap study which resulted in several coordination meetings, a better understanding of the interactions between surface water in the San Joaquin River and the nearby groundwater and resulted in the execution of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to document the good work being completed at the local level.

Efforts to improve the representative monitoring network started in 2024, with the Board of Directors approving about $200,000 to start the conversion to dedicated monitoring wells for groundwater level measurements. Efforts are underway to identify the location of the dedicated monitoring wells and the work includes both the construction of about 10-12 dedicated wells and the addition of 13 data loggers to have more real time data. The first data logger was installed in the Spring 2024 as a test case.

NKGSA launched a well intake portal (registration tool) in April 2024 and more than 100 wells have been registered with the NKGSA as part of the voluntary program. Working with landowners, 2025 will seek to greatly improve the total number of wells registered with the NKGSA.

NKGSA member agencies continued to work on their agency projects to ensure they are mitigating for the groundwater overdraft in their jurisdictions. This included the following:

- City of Kerman: Completed the meter and measurement project at Lions Park.
- Biola CSD: Completed the construction of a turnout on FID's Herndon Canal to convey water to their recharge basin within their boundary.
- Pinedale County Water District: Executed an agreement with FID for a surface water supply and recharged water for the first time in Basin DH1.
- Fresno Irrigation District: Completed construction of the Kenneson & Sanchez Basins and interconnected four Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) basins with their canals to expand recharge potential.
- City of Fresno: Reduced their total groundwater demand to about 47,000 acre-feet which is the same as the pumping occurring in 1955.
- City of Clovis: Reduced their total groundwater demand but meeting more of their demands with surface water treated at their surface water treatment plant.
- Garfield Water District: Recharged water in the Ricchiuti Basin.
- Fresno County: Secured funding for the design and construction of the Friant Kern Canal turnout which will allow more water from the Millerton System to be diverted into Big Dry Creek Channel improving surface water availability.

2024 wrapped up with efforts associated with completing the revised GSPs, the update to the Kings Basin coordination agreement and preparation of the periodic evaluation to be prepared to submit to DWR by January 31, 2025.

2025 Priorities:

2025 will be focused on continued implementation of the GSP. More work is needed on the interconnected surface water investigation and data gap analysis which will continue

throughout 2025. Specifically, the following items have been identified as needing to be completed and efforts are underway to ensure these items can be accomplished in 2025:

1. Continued implementation of the domestic well mitigation program and establish the long term funding for the program.
2. Continue with the interconnected surface water investigations on the San Joaquin and Kings Rivers to gather data and demonstrate progress towards establishing sustainable management criteria for wells in and around the rivers. This effort is highly technical, and the data gaps are extensive. Per the MOU executed between Friant Water Authority, USBR, Madera County GSA, MAGSA and the NKGSA, the efforts will continue throughout much of 2025.
3. The 2024 Annual Report is due to DWR by April 1, 2025. The NKGSA will work with P&P by providing information from its member agencies to aid in the completion of the annual report for the Kings Basin.
4. Monitoring network improvements at the SMC wells is imperative as part of the long-term strategy for ensuring the groundwater levels are responding as expected to the mitigation projects being implemented. In 2025, the priority will be to continue to build on the work done in 2024 to support the conversion to having dedicated monitoring wells for groundwater level measurements.
5. Review and assess member agency mitigation targets and efforts and progress towards addressing the overdraft in the individual agency boundaries.
6. Convert the voluntary well registration program to a mandatory program requiring well owners to register their wells with the NKGSA to support maintaining local control and enable the NKGSA to make management decisions with data to support its actions.
7. Other activities will include working to secure funding and offering support for agencies seeking to complete SGMA implementation projects; routine engagement with the Board of Directors and local elected officials; continue activity on social media and on the NKGSA website to support stakeholder engagement; accept opportunities to speak at various conferences and events to showcase the good work happening within the Kings Basin and the NKGSA; and maintain a high level of professionalism at all times.

Prepared by: Kassy D. Chauhan

9 (a - d) – Executive Officer Report

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM NO:	**9 (a) - (d)**
Executive Officer:	KDC

NKGSA-
REPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

TO: Chair and Committee Members

FROM: Executive Officer – Kassy Chauhan

DATE: March 10, 2025

SUBJECT: NKGSA Executive Officer Report

ATTACHMENTS: None

SGMA Implementation Project Updates

Progress continues on the projects being constructed under the Round 1 SGMA implementation grant funds. These projects include Fresno Irrigation District's (FID's) Carter-Bybee Basin which is anticipated to be completed in April 2025, along with projects for Consolidated Irrigation District, James Irrigation District and Riverdale Irrigation District. The total grant award was $7.6 million.

Fresno State and Fresno Irrigation District submitted applications to the NRCS for a list of projects they hope will qualify for EQIP funding from NRCS. The projects aim to help both Fresno State and FID reach their sustainability goals.

Outreach and External Affairs

The NKGSA remains active on social media. Additionally, the NKGSA actively engages with stakeholders via e-blogs and by providing information on the website. Participation in the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint, the Collaborative Action Plan and the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley continues.

Miscellaneous

State Water Resources Control Board Hearings and Workshops

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has continued its probationary process for those basins recommended for probation by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) including the Tulare Lake, Tule, Kaweah, and Kern Subbasins. As of October 2024, the Tulare Lake and Tule Subbasins have been placed in probation.

The Kaweah Subbasin was set to have its probationary hearing on January 7, 2025, but the State Board cancelled the hearing, and no new date has been established. The probationary hearing for the Kern Groundwater Basin was held on February 20, 2025, and the State Board unanimously approved an extension of time to allow additional work to be completed by the Kern Groundwater Basin. The new hearing will be held in September 2025.

The Kings County Farm Bureau sued the SWRCB over its decision to put the Tulare Lake subbasin on probation following the probationary hearing. The lawsuit is scheduled for a case management trial 2025 and could end up going to trial. All reporting and fees for those in the Tulare Lake Subbasin have been suspended pending the outcome of the litigation. All landowners would have been subject to a December 1 deadline for extractors to report their monthly groundwater extraction volumes to the State Water Board followed by payment of fees by April 1, 2025.

Water Allocation Framework:

The Kings Subbasin began working on the development of the water allocation framework, an effort being driven by the North Fork Kings GSA, in February 2025. One of the key components of the framework will be river seepage and how it is accounted for. While the framework will be adopted at the Kings Subbasin level to stay coordinated, each GSA will have discretion on if and when to implement pumping restrictions in accordance with the water allocation framework. The native sustainable yield represents the amount of groundwater that can be pumped and considers precipitation, natural seepage of local supplies from rivers and streams and mountain front runoff. Each component needs to be considered and methodology for calculating amounts of precipitation and how river seepage is distributed is needed to develop the native sustainable yield. Additional information will be provided as the discussions at the Kings Subbasin coordination meetings continue. The information will be filtered through the NKGSA Technical Workgroup chaired by FID's Adam Claes. North Fork Kings GSA is leading this effort and transmitted a letter to Kings River Water Authority seeking input on how the KRWA handles seepage losses, which will be one of the categories needed for the allocation framework.

Well Registration Portal

In April 2024, the NKGSA launched a well registration portal to allow voluntary registration of domestic and agricultural wells located within its boundaries. The voluntary well registration program has resulted in about 100 wells being registered since the launch of the portal. The NKGSA needs to ensure it has a good accounting of wells located within its boundary. As such, plans are underway to convert the program from voluntary to mandatory for well owners within the NKGSA boundary. The mandatory well registration program will be a priority in 2025 and will affect mostly FID landowners as well as the white area landowners in Fresno County. The schedule for getting wells registered will allow landowners plenty of time to comply with the registration requirement and will also be required for landowners wishing to take part in the domestic well mitigation grant program or future grant programs. Staff plan to bring a well registration policy to the Advisory Committee in April 2025 for discussion and possible action.

Well Permit Review:

The NKGSA continues to review each of the well permit applications submitted to permitting agencies for wells being drilled within the NKGSA boundary. Data obtained from the well permit applications is compiled to facilitate ease of review and tracking. The NKGSA has been reviewing all new well permit applications submitted to Fresno County. The locations of the proposed new wells (including replacement wells) are being mapped to enable the NKGSA to identify any areas of concern. In addition, the NKGSA is notified by the State of California any time there is a report of a well going dry through the My Well Went Dry portal housed on DWR's website.

Prepared by: Kassy D. Chauhan