MINUTES

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