THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR
MAY 22, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.
2907 SOUTH MAPLE AVENUE – FRESNO, CA

TELECONFERENCE / IN-PERSON MEETING

AGENCIES – DIRECTORS / ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT

Chairman Jerry Prieto, Jr., Fresno Irrigation District
Vice-Chairman Brian Pacheco, County of Fresno
Director Steve Pickens, Bakman Water Company
Director Matthew Basgall, City of Clovis
Director Kyle Moeller, Fowler Packing
Director Karl Kienow, Garfield Water District

BOARD SEATS ABSENT

Alternate Director Brock Buche, City of Fresno

MEMBER STAFF PRESENT

Executive Officer Kassy Chauhan, Fresno Irrigation District
Technical Committee Chairman Scott Redelfs, City of Clovis
Fiscal Agent De Ann Stork, Fresno Irrigation District
Legal Counsel Dave Boyer, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud, & Romo (via teleconference)

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 noted that one member of the public, as well as legal counsel, was in attendance virtually. As has been the ongoing practice, the Board would invite verbal public comments following each agenda item. No advance requests for public comments or written comments were received.

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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. **FINANCIAL MATTERS (Stork)**

   a. **Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of the Financial Statements as of March 31, 2025**

Ms. Stork presented the March 2025 financial statements, noting that they are normal and customary.

M/S/C (Moeller/Basgall) That the Board of Directors approved the Financial Statements as of March 31, 2025, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – Buche; Abstain – 0)

   b. **Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of the Expense Reports for March 2025**

Ms. Stork stated that the expenses for the month of March were customary, with no outliers to report.

M/S/C (Basgall/Kienow) That the Board of Directors approved the Expense Reports for March 2025, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – Buche; Abstain – 0)

c. Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

Ms. Stork presented the Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget, noting that the most significant item in the FY 2025-2026 budget is the Domestic Well Mitigation Program. The following funding breakdown for the program was provided:

- Domestic Well Mitigation Program - $1,000,000
  - Funding Plan
    - $500,000 – Split between Fresno, Clovis, FID, and County
    - $250,000 – Administrative Fee split per the current member agency participation percentages
    - $250,000 – Carryover from FY 2024-2025 Domestic Well Mitigation Program Funds

M/S/C (Kienow/Basgall) That the Board of Directors approved the Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – Buche; Abstain – 0)

8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Discussion / Possible Action on Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2025

There were no corrections or suggestions to the April 24, 2025, meeting minutes.

M/S/C (Pickens/Moeller) That the Board of Directors approved the minutes of the April 24, 2025, Regular Board meeting, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – Buche; Abstain – 0)

b. Kings Subbasin Coordination Update

Mr. Samuelian reviewed the following.

- DWR comments on Periodic Evaluation and Revised GSPs anticipated in December
- Domestic Well Mitigation Program ongoing
- Allocation Framework discussions continue
- Coordinated work on Interconnected Surface Water (ISW)
    - Working with Madera Basin GSAs, FWA, USBR, SJRRPRA
- Considering Lobbyist consultation services

Mr. Samuelian reported progress on the allocation framework, which will serve as the basis for determining available pumping. It was noted that six of the seven GSAs have agreed to a common methodology. MAGSA is participating in the discussions but has not provided input or a position on the methodology. The six GSAs are proceeding, and initial calculations using the agreed-upon methodology are expected to be completed this month to provide preliminary estimates for each GSA.

Mr. Samuelian noted that a press release will be issued soon regarding the 2024 Water Year End Report, which was completed and submitted to the state by the April 1, 2025, deadline. It was highlighted that over 1,100 acres of recharge basins have been added since the implementation of SGMA and that approximately 200,000 acre-feet of recharge was done during 2024.

Mr. Samuelian stated that in the 2024 water year, despite being an average year and following a wet 2023, a negative groundwater storage change was still calculated. Of the approximately 128 indicator wells in the basin, more than half showed a decline. While some areas, particularly those with strong water rights, such as parts of FID, CID, and Kings River East, showed increases, the majority of wells indicated a decline from fall 2023 to fall 2024.

c. Water Conditions Update

Ms. Chauhan presented the following water conditions with the Board.

CVP & San Joaquin River (as of May 20):

- Millerton Lake Storage: 455,000 AF
- San Joaquin River Release: ~560 cfs
- Friant-Kern Canal: ~1,600 cfs
- Madera Canal: 750 cfs
- Friant Class 1 – 100% (March 27)
    - 45% initial allocation, increased to 80% (March 14)
- Friant Class 2 – none (likely no change)

Kings River as of May 20:

- Pine Flat Storage: 829,000 AF
- Pine Flat release: ~3,370 cfs
- Pre-Project: ~4,500 cfs (FID Entitlement: 1,450 cfs)
- FID Pine Flat Storage: 125,000 AF
- Total FID Div.: 1,350 cfs (Kings), 140 cfs (CVP), 0 cfs (BDC)

Ms. Chauhan presented the Tulare Basin 6-Station Precipitation Index for the 2024-2025 Water Year, which began in October 2024. The data showed no precipitation in October, above-average precipitation in November, below-average precipitation in December and January, above-average precipitation in February and March, below-average precipitation in April, and so far in May.

Ms. Chauhan presented a chart based on the May 1st Airborne Snow Observatory Survey showing snow water content in the snowpack beginning in October 2024. It was noted that the outlook is not favorable, but FID staff will continue to monitor runoff over the coming weeks.

Water Conditions Report

- Kings River April-July Runoff Forecasts:
    - Gradually decreasing due to no precipitation
    - Dry April and May
    - DWR B120: 76% of avg
    - NOAA CNRFC: 77%
    - Without future precipitation, likely end up ~72-75%
- May 1 KRWA Kings Snow Survey:
    - 41% of May 1 avg (last year was 72%)

d. Advisory Committee Update

Recommended Actions:

- Approval of Financial Statements as of March 31, 2025
- Approval of Expense Reports for March 2025
- Approval of Proposed FY 2025-2026 Budget

Mr. Redelfs reported that a Special Advisory Committee meeting was held the previous Tuesday, May 13, 2025. The committee thoroughly reviewed and discussed the financial statements and budget, which were determined to be appropriate. Appreciation was expressed for the Board's approval, and it was noted that the Advisory Committee fully recommended the approval of the FY 2025-2026 budget.

e. Groundwater Extraction Well Registration Update

Ms. Chauhan reviewed the following.

Well Registration Progress and Next Steps Update

- To Date: 205 wells registered
- Required Effective May 1
- More than 8,000 wells within NKGSA
- Next Steps:
    - Large Landowner Meetings and Contacts
    - White Area Landowner Outreach
    - Individual Meetings

Ms. Chauhan shared graphics showing a near doubling of registered wells since May 1, 2025, noting that spikes in the data align with outreach efforts. It was emphasized that every available channel to communicate with stakeholders that the well registration is mandatory is being used.

- Press Release – May 1
- San Joaquin Valley Water Article
- KMJ – Dan York Interview
- Launch Website
- Translation of Documents
- Support Services Team Launched

Chairman Prieto mentioned that some landowners on the east side have expressed concern about registering their wells. Ms. Chauhan indicated follow up with landowners would happen and encouraged directors to forward concerns to her for followup.

f. Domestic Well Mitigation Program Update

Ms. Chauhan stated that there has not been a lot of activity with the Domestic Well Mitigation Program noting that two applications have been received. One application was declined due to not being qualified for the program, and the other is continuing to go through the application process.

g. Well Permitting Update

Well Type – 2025	Count
Agricultural	19
Cathodic	2
Domestic Private	48
Domestic Public	3
Monitoring	6
Soil Boring	2
Grand Total	80

Well Type – 2025	Count
January	14 (Agricultural 3; Domestic Private 8; Domestic Public 1; Monitoring 2)
February	19 (Agricultural 7; Cathodic 2; Domestic Private 8; Soil Boring 2)
March	18 (Agricultural 2; Domestic Private 13; Monitoring 3)
April	14 (Agricultural 6; Domestic Private 7; Domestic Public 1)
May 1-20th	15 (Agricultural 1; Domestic Private 12; Domestic Public 1; Monitoring 1)

2024: 229 Total

Ms. Chauhan stated that 80 permits have been processed so far in 2025. While the number is expected to increase, it is currently tracking lower than the same time last year. It was also noted that a process will eventually be implemented to integrate some of this data into the well registration program.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT (Chauhan)

a. SGMA Implementation Projects Update

Ms. Chauhan noted that the City of Kerman's Lions Park Recharge Project received metered water for the first time from FID starting in April, marking a significant milestone for the City. A joint press release was issued with participation from Fresno County, FID, North Kings GSA, and the City of Kerman. The story was picked up by California Ag Today. It was emphasized that regardless of project size, it is important to highlight the positive work being done by the GSA to demonstrate progress toward groundwater sustainability.

Ms. Chauhan reported that FID's Carter-Bybee Basin (35 acres) is nearing completion. Additionally, Malaga County Water District completed an intertie project with FMFCD's Basin CF, which will allow the basin to receive water for recharge.

b. Outreach / External Affairs Update

- Joint News Release – Kerman, FID, NKGSA
    - Lions Park Recharge Project
    - California Ag Today Featured

Ms. Chauhan shared a link to the California Ag Today article noting that it was also posted on our social media.

- Social Media
- Website

- Speaking Engagements
    - May 7, 2025: The BIG Think – Realtors – Liquid Assets and Property Values
    - June 5, 2025: APWA Luncheon Meeting

Ms. Chauhan noted that a key event this month was a presentation given to a group of realtors at an event called "The Big Think," hosted by Realty Concepts. The presentation focused on liquid assets, including how water availability and SGMA are increasingly impacting property values, topics that may not have been on the radar for realtors a decade ago. It was noted that the event was a good opportunity to share information and was well received.

Ms. Chauhan mentioned that her next speaking engagement will be at the upcoming APWA Luncheon in a couple of weeks, where an update on SGMA will be presented.

c. Representative Monitoring Network Update

- Obtaining Easements for New Wells – 6
- Data Loggers – Purchased and Ready to Install
- Bids Received – Notice of Award Issued – May 22
    - Bid Opening Date – May 19
- Notice to Proceed to follow

Company	Base Bid	Alternate 1	Alternate 2	Alternate 3
ABC Liovin	$347,525	$66,825	$51,325	$49,825
Gregg Drilling	$271,907	$80,491	$55,611	$53,871
Arthur Orum Well Drilling	$162,475	$46,905	$37,175	$35,785

Ms. Chauhan stated that a notice of award was issued to the apparent low bidder, Arthur Orum Well Drilling, for the first batch of monitoring wells. It was noted that the Board had previously approved up to $200,000 in the budget for this effort to transition to a dedicated monitoring network. Emphasis was placed on the importance of this investment, as accurate and consistent groundwater level measurements are critical for state reporting. Continued reliance on existing pumping agricultural wells has presented challenges, reinforcing the need for dedicated monitoring wells.

Ms. Chauhan noted that a competitive bidding process was used, resulting in three bids. Add alternates were included for additional monitoring wells, contingent on available funding. At this time, only the base bid is being awarded. This marks the first contract awarded for the North Kings GSA and will serve as an opportunity to establish operations in this area and evaluate the performance of the selected driller for potential future expansion.

d. Miscellaneous

- ACWA Spring 2025 Conference
- Proposition 4 Bond Funds

- Legislative Update
  - AB929 (Connolly) – OPPOSE – Exemptions from SGMA extraction fees – Wetlands and Small Community Water Systems
  - AB293 (Bennett) – OPPOSE – GSAs Required to Link Form 700's on Website

- SWRCB Probationary Process
  - Kern Basin – More Time
  - Chowchilla Basin – Return to DWR – No Probation

Ms. Chauhan reported attending the ACWA Spring Conference in Monterey, where there was extensive discussion on SGMA, Proposition 4, and related legislation impacting SGMA implementation.

Regarding Prop 4, it was noted that although the measure has passed, awards for projects related to water, storage, and similar efforts are not expected to be made by DWR until 2027. DWR is currently engaged in an open and transparent stakeholder process to gather input on how the funds should be allocated and what types of projects should be prioritized. While DWR's deliberate approach is intended to ensure broad feedback, some agencies are pushing for an expedited timeline given the urgency of SGMA implementation.

Ms. Chauhan noted that there is a large opposition coalition to bills AB 929 and AB 293. These bills will be closely tracked, and the Board will be kept updated as they progress through the legislative process.

Ms. Chauhan stated that the Chowchilla Basin has a hearing scheduled with the State Water Board on June 3, 2025. The State Water Board staff is recommending that the basin be returned to the Department of Water Resources.

Ms. Chauhan noted that, due to a lack of action items, both the Advisory Committee Meeting and the Board Meeting in June will likely be cancelled.

10. DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Pickens – nothing to report
Director Kienow – expressed gratitude to the Advisory Committee for all the work they do
Director Prieto – nothing to report

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Director Basgall – nothing to report
Director Moeller – nothing to report
Director Pacheco – nothing to report
Director Buche – absent

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Chairman Prieto adjourned the meeting at 6:37 pm.

Submitted by,

Kassy D. Ch

Kassy Chauhan, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer