THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 24, 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
Alternate Director Nicholas Mascia, City of Fresno

BOARD SEATS ABSENT

None

MEMBER STAFF PRESENT

Executive Officer Kassy Chauhan, Fresno Irrigation District
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 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**

Mr. Joseph Gallegos of Grey4Green, a Fresno-based company specializing in gray water systems, proposed that the board consider adopting a policy to encourage gray water use by developers when building new buildings. The suggestion emphasized that while not mandatory, systems should be readily available for landscaping purposes. Similar policies were adopted by the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco, and this would be a first for a GSA. Mr. Gallegos highlighted the importance of water conservation by both farmers and developers.

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. BOARD ELECTIONS (Chauhan)

   a. **Discussion / Possible Action – Appointment of Board Chair and Vice-Chair (Chauhan)**

Adhering to the North Kings GSA bylaws, the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman are scheduled to be elected for a one-year term at the beginning of each fiscal year.

Ms. Chauhan opened nominations for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Director Kienow stated that if Chairman Prieto and Vice-Chairman Pacheco were willing to serve another term, he would move to nominate them to continue in their roles. Director Basgall seconded the motion. There were no objections.

With no further nominations or comments, Ms. Chauhan called for a vote.

M/S/C (Kienow/Basgall) That the Board of Directors approved Director Prieto to continue as Board Chairman and Director Pacheco to continue as Board Vice-Chairman by the following vote. (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Mascia, Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS (Stork)

Ms. Stork noted that all items she will present tonight have been reviewed by the Advisory Committee, which recommended that these items be brought before the Board.

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

Ms. Stork presented the May 2025 financial statements and noted no irregularities.

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

b. Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of the Expense Reports for April and May 2025

Ms. Stork stated that the expenses for the months of April and May were customary and normal, there was nothing out of the ordinary.

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

c. Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of Resolution 2025-01 Contract for Deposit of Monies and Five Star Bank Credit Card Program – Five Star Bank

Ms. Stork reported that due to limited representation and unfavorable interest rates at Bank of Montreal (BMO), the Advisory Committee recommends transferring agency funds to Five Star Bank and obtaining a credit card for purchases that cannot be made by check.

Five Star Bank offers immediate representative support, a competitive interest rate comparable to LAIF, and automatic fund sweeps, providing notable benefits to the agency.

M/S/C (Kienow/Pickens) That the Board of Directors approved the Resolution 2025-01 Contract for Deposit of Monies and Five Star Bank Credit Card Program – Five Star Bank, as presented by Staff, by the following roll call vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Mascia, Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

d. Member Agency Participation Invoices Update

Ms. Stork stated that invoices were sent out in early July and are not yet due. Payments have been received from the City of Clovis, City of Kerman, Fresno Irrigation District, and International Water District.

e. Interested Parties Invoices Update

Ms. Stork noted that the three interested parties that have contributed to the agency are E&J Gallo Winery, Malaga County Water District, and Pinedale Community Services District.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Discussion / Possible Action on Regular Board Meeting Minutes – May 22, 2025

There were no corrections or suggestions to the May 22, 2025, meeting minutes.

M/S/C (Basgall/Moeller) That the Board of Directors approved the minutes of the May 22, 2025, Regular Board meeting, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – Mascia)

b. Update on NKGSA Board of Directors Official Roster – New City of Fresno Alternate Director Appointment

Ms. Chauhan welcomed Director Nick Mascia, the new alternate director for the City of Fresno, to the NKGSA Board of Directors, noting the appointment follows the retirement

of Director Buche. The Mayor of Fresno appointed Georgeanne White as the primary alternate director and Nick Mascia as the second alternate. Ms. Chauhan invited Director Mascia to introduce himself.

Director Mascia shared that he is the Assistant City Manager for City of Fresno and has been a Valley resident for approximately 11 years, having previously lived in Phoenix, Arizona, then Visalia, and moved to Fresno approximately two years ago. He noted his background as a Professional Engineer.

c. 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
    - Plan to do more outreach in September
- Allocation Framework discussions continue
- Coordinated work on Interconnected Surface Water (ISW)
    - Awaiting DWR to release BMP documents
    - Working with Madera Basin GSAs, FWA, USBR, SJRRPRA
- Requesting Prop 4 funding not be delayed
- Considering Lobbyist consultation services
- Land Subsidence Best Management Practices Released by DWR - TODAY

Mr. Samuelian noted that he attended a coordination call with DWR yesterday. DWR expects to release comments on the Periodic Evaluation and Revised GSPs by the end of the calendar year. They anticipate providing feedback on the annual report by the end of summer.

Mr. Samuelian reported that the Allocation Framework is progressing, with North Fork Kings leading and funding the effort for basin-wide consistency. Six of the seven GSAs have agreed to a common methodology. A draft memo is under review, with finalization expected by September. MAGSA has indicated it will not commit to an allocation until 2030, pending additional data collection.

Mr. Samuelian reported that DWR has approved Prop 4 funding. However, the agency plans to use fiscal year 2025–2026 to gather public feedback on prioritizing SGMA and

groundwater-related funding. The application process is anticipated to be developed and finalized in 2026–2027, with awards expected in 2027–2028.

Mr. Samuelian stated that while the NKGSA does not have a significant issue with land subsidence, there is a small amount in the western part of the basin. It was noted that there is greater concern about the impacts caused by neighboring agencies from pumping in the deeper aquifer.

Ms. Chauhan mentioned that in regard to subsidence, there is going to be a series of public meetings and one of them is scheduled to be held in Clovis on September 9th at 3:00 pm.

d. Water Conditions Update

Mr. Claes noted that FID ended their irrigation season on July 30, 2025.

Mr. Claes presented the following water conditions to the Board.

CVP & San Joaquin River (as of July 23):
- Millerton Lake Storage: 343,000 AF
- San Joaquin River Release: ~237 cfs
- Friant-Kern Canal: ~2,600 cfs
- Madera Canal: 709 cfs
- Friant Class 1 – 100% (March 27)
  - 45% initial allocation, increased to 80% (March 14)
  - Potential decrease to 95% (still waiting)
- Friant Class 2 – URFs Tier 2 Block AA (642 AF for FID)

Kings River as of July 24:
- Pine Flat Storage: 432,000 AF
- Pine Flat Release: ~6,200 cfs
- Pre-Project: ~533 cfs (FID Entitlement: 190 cfs)

- FID Pine Flat Storage: 59,000 AF
- Total FID Diversion: 1,530 cfs (Kings), 140 cfs (CVP), 0 cfs (BDC)

Mr. Claes presented a chart for the month of July, which showed continued declines in both pre-project flows as well as FID entitlements.

Mr. Claes 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, and below-average precipitation for April, May, June, and July.

Mr. Claes presented a chart comparing snow water content in the Southern Sierra region over the past couple of years, noting that this year's levels are below those of last year.

Kings River Runoff Projections

- Actual runoff is significantly less than originally projected
- DWR B120 & NOAA California-Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC) runoff projections in late March 2025 were both approximately 84% of historic average.
- Current NOAA CNRFC Kings Forecasts:
  - April-July Runoff: 71% of avg (San Joaquin River at 69%)
  - Water Year: 70% of avg (San Joaquin River at 71%)

2024 was 95% of historic average (5-month irrigation season)

Fresno ID Operations Update:
- FID concluding 2025 water season July 30
- Continue out-of-season deliveries to Surface Water Treatment Facilities (SWTFs)

e. Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Claes noted that Mr. Redelfs was unable to attend the meeting. As vice-chair of the Advisory Committee, Mr. Claes provided a brief summary of the committee's recent actions in place of Mr. Redelfs.

Advisory Committee's Recommended Actions:
- Presentation by CSU WATER (Water Advocacy Towards Education and Research) – Steve Blumenshine
- Approval of Financial Statements as of May 31, 2025
- Approval of Expense Reports for April and May 2025
- Approve Resolution 2025-01 Contract for Deposit of Monies and Five Star Bank Credit Card Program

f. Groundwater Extraction Well Registration Update

Ms. Chauhan reviewed the following.

Well Registration Progress Update

- To Date: 487 wells registered
- Well Registration - Required
  - NKGSA Board adopted the policy on May 1, 2025
  - Effective May 1, 2025
- Estimated 8,000 wells within NKGSA
- Next Steps:
  - Landowner Meetings and Contacts
  - Landowner Workshop
    - First one planned for August
  - White Area Landowner Outreach
  - Individual Meetings

Ms. Chauhan shared graphics noting that spikes in the data align with outreach efforts.

A Director noted receiving an email requesting well registration, despite having registered in early May. Ms. Chauhan clarified that the voluntary program initiated in March 2024 has transitioned to a new platform. Those who registered under the previous system must now enter their email address and claim their wells to link them to their new account. Director Pacheco inquired about penalties for farmers or landowners who fail to register wells on time. Ms. Chauhan explained that the NKGSA policy sets a registration deadline of November 30, 2025, and allows for a penalty of $100 per well for non-compliance, subject to NKGSA Board approval.

A question was raised about whether the fee is part of the communications begin sent out. Ms. Chauhan noted that current communications focus on avoiding the deadline and fee but do not emphasize the $100 amount. Updates to messaging will be considered to make the penalty more explicit.

Ms. Chauhan shared a graphic illustrating the types of wells registered to date.

Well Type	Count	Percentage	Distribution
Agricultural Irrigation	282	57.9%	
Domestic	158	32.4%	
Unknown	36	7.4%	
Industrial	10	2.1%	
Other	1	0.2%	
Total	**487**	**100%**	

- Outreach Efforts:
  - Support Team Available for Assistance
  - E-Blasts
  - Website
  - Social Media
    - Video Posting Soon
    - Growers Corner
  - Workshops
    - Participation in Events
    - Coordination with County – White Area Landowners
    - Large Grower Workshop – August 27 – Kerman
    - Other Workshops

Ms. Chauhan announced that the first outreach event is scheduled for August 27th in Kerman, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Kerman Community Center. The event will provide growers with an opportunity to express concerns, learn about the well registration program, and receive assistance from the support team to complete registration on-site.

g. Domestic Well Mitigation Program Update

Ms. Chauhan reported limited activity in the Domestic Well Mitigation Program, noting that no domestic wells or interim water supplies have been funded to date.

h. Well Permitting Update

Ms. Chauhan noted that the number of dry wells continues to trend lower than last year, based on the number of new wells being drilled within the GSA boundary.

Well Type – 2025	Count
Agricultural	25
Cathodic	2
Domestic Private	76
Domestic Public	3
Monitoring	7
Soil Boring	2
Grand Total	115

Well Type – 2025	Count
January	14 (Agricultural 3; Domestic Private 8; Domestic Public 1; Monitoring 2)
February	18 (Agricultural 6; 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	19 (Agricultural 2; Domestic Private 15; Domestic Public 1; Monitoring 1)
June	19 (Agricultural 4; Domestic Private 14; Monitoring 1)
July	13 (Agricultural 2; Domestic Private 11)
Grand Total:	115

2024: 229 Total

10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT (Chauhan)

a. SGMA Implementation Projects Update

Ms. Chauhan reported that the different agencies continue to make progress on SGMA implementation projects. FID is finalizing excavation work on its Carter-Bybee Basin and has secured additional grant funding for two other basins. Fresno State, while not contributing its Interested Party donation, is gaining momentum on its SGMA implementation projects. Fresno State also secured a $450,000 NRCS grant for on-farm improvements to help meet its obligations. These developments reflect ongoing progress across agencies, which will be documented in the annual report to DWR.

b. Outreach / External Affairs Update

- Social Media
- Website

Ms. Chauhan noted that outreach efforts continue through social media, the website, and email blasts.

- Speaking Engagements
    - June 5, 2025: American Public Works Association (APWA) Luncheon Meeting

Ms. Chauhan mentioned that she was the keynote speaker at the APWA Meeting. A couple of pictures were shown of the event.

c. Representative Monitoring Network Update

- Obtaining Easements for New Wells – 12
- Data Loggers – Purchased and Ready to Install
- Rebidding In Progress

Ms. Chauhan stated that a notice of award was to be issued to the apparent low bidder, Arthur Orum Well Drilling. However, the business closed, so the project will need to go out to bid again, as the other two bids received were over the engineer's estimate and budget amount. It was decided to pause, combine funds from fiscal year 2024-2025 with fiscal year 2025-2026, and potentially construct twice as many wells when going out to bid. The rebidding process is currently underway.

d. Miscellaneous

- Proposition 4 Bond Funds Letter
    - Submitted Last Week (a copy was included in the Board packet)
- NRCS Projects – Next Solicitation – Fall 2025

Ms. Chauhan stated that the NRCS program provided funding that Fresno State has utilized and that FID is using for pipeline replacement projects. The next solicitation is expected in fall 2025, and information will be shared with growers. Two key advantages of the program for farmers were noted:

- Applicants compete only with other FID growers, which improves the chances of funding.
- The program supports projects that promote groundwater sustainability, such as measurement tools, soil moisture sensors, on-farm recharge, and flood irrigation facilities.

It was added that efforts will continue to educate and encourage growers to participate so they can contribute to sustainability while receiving financial assistance.

- Proposed Legislation – WATCH
  - AB1413 (Papin) – Revised NSY Provision – Opposed
  - AB1466 (Hart) – GW Adjudications – Opposed

Chairman Prieto inquired about the bill that would require all GSA Board of Directors' addresses to be made public. Ms. Chauhan stated that the bill is being tracked and that, in addition to requiring filing with the FPPC office, it would also require Form 700s to be posted on the GSA website. A strong opposition coalition has formed against the bill, which is currently in its second hearing in the Assembly.

- SWRCB Probationary Process
  - Kern Basin – Next Hearing – September 17 – GSP out for public comment

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Pickens – nothing to report

Director Kienow – nothing to report

Director Prieto – nothing to report

Director Basgall – nothing to report

Director Moeller – nothing to report

Director Pacheco – nothing to report

Director Mascia – nothing to report

12. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Chairman Prieto adjourned the meeting at 7:04 pm.

Submitted by,

Kassy D. Chauhan

Kassy Chauhan, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer