THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FOR
OCTOBER 2, 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
Alternate Director Ernest Mendes, 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
Technical Committee Chairman Scott Redelfs, City of Clovis
Fresno Irrigation District Representative – Bill Stretch
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.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FOR
OCTOBER 2, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.
2907 SOUTH MAPLE AVENUE – FRESNO, CA

TELECONFERENCE / IN-PERSON MEETING

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 – Review of Draft Expense Report for June 2025**

Ms. Stork noted that the audited financial statements have not yet been completed so she will be presenting the June 2025 draft expense report, noting that the expenses were customary and normal, with nothing out of the ordinary.

   b. **Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of the Expense Report for July 2025**

Ms. Stork stated that the July expense report was minimal and requested its approval.

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

c. Discussion – Review Draft Financial Statements as of June 30, 2025

M. Stork stated that the June draft financial statements are being presented for review only and would be submitted to the Board for action once completed. The items were noted as normal and customary.

d. Discussion – Review Draft Financial Statements as of July 31, 2025

Ms. Stork presented the draft July financial statements, noting that they remain in draft form as any changes from June will be reflected in July.

e. Discussion / Possible Action – Establish a Reserve Fund for Representative Monitoring Well Network Improvements (Stork/Chauhan)

Ms. Stork stated that we propose establishing a reserve fund for improvements to the representative monitoring well network. This proposal was previously approved by the Advisory Committee. The reserve would include unspent funds from the 2024–2025 budget, the 2025–2026 approved budget, and the accumulated member agency balances. These combined funds should be sufficient to cover the cost of 10 dedicated monitoring wells without requiring an additional call for funds.

Director Mendes inquired about the number of monitoring wells in the North Kings GSA. Ms. Chauhan explained that there are 32 wells across the GSA boundary. The project aims to create dedicated monitoring wells, as the current use of existing agricultural and domestic wells presents challenges.

M/S/C (Pickens/Mendes) That the Board of Directors approved the Establishment of a Reserve Fund for the Representative Monitoring Well Network Improvements, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Mascia, Basgall, Mendes; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

f. Financial Institution Transition Update

Ms. Stork noted that the transition from BMO Bank to Five Star Bank went smoothly. All funds have been transferred, and the BMO Bank account has been closed.

g. Member Agency Participation Invoices Update

Ms. Stork noted that all entities except the City of Fresno have submitted payment. The City of Fresno is working on payment but is delayed due to other priorities.

h. Update on FY 2024-2025 Audit

Ms. Stork stated that the audit is nearly complete and will be presented to the Advisory Committee at their next meeting, followed by submission to the Board for approval.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

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

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

b. Kings Subbasin Coordination Update

Mr. Samuelian reviewed the following.

- Allocation Framework discussions continue
- DWR release of Subsidence Best Management Practice
- DWR comments on Periodic Evaluation and Revised GSPs anticipated in December
- Annual Report review by DWR – importance of well measurement data
- Domestic Well Mitigation Program ongoing
    - To date there have been no well replacements
- Coordinated work on Interconnected Surface Water (ISW)
- Requested Prop 4 funding not be delayed
- Considering Lobbyist consultation services

Mr. Samuelian reported that comments have been received from the upper river GSAs regarding the Allocation Framework. South Kings and James ID GSAs reviewed the framework and had no comments. Final edits are expected to be completed by the end of October, with the goal of sharing the updated framework with the Technical Committees, Advisory Committees, and Boards for potential approval in November or December.

Mr. Samuelian emphasized the importance of establishing a dedicated well monitoring network and thanked the Board for approving funding for its development.

Director Prieto inquired about the ongoing Indian Wells adjudication lawsuit in Kern County and the determination of sustainable yield. Mr. Boyer explained that the case is currently in Phase One, which focuses on determining overdraft. He noted that there had been numerous motions filed by the local GSA asserting that the court was required to follow the GSP; however, the court rejected that position. This outcome led to Indian Wells taking the lead on AB 1413, which has become a two-year bill intended to provide GSAs and GSPs with additional authority.

A member of the public, Frank Coelho, asked how much additional subsidence had occurred in the worst areas of the GSA. Mr. Samuelian explained that within the North Kings GSA, there has been no significant subsidence; however, within the broader Kings Basin, particularly in the southwestern and western portions along North Fork Kings GSA, some areas have experienced subsidence, indicating an issue within the basin as a whole.

c. Water Conditions Update

Ms. Chauhan stated that, as there is no significant new information to report, a water conditions update would not be provided today.

d. Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Redelfs noted that the Advisory Committee met on September 12 and thanked the Board for approving the reserve fund for the monitoring network. It was further noted that the committee anticipates presenting a recommendation on the allocation framework to the Board within the next few months.

Advisory Committee's Recommended Actions:

- Expense Report and Financial Statements Reviewed
- Approve Establishing Reserve for Representative Monitoring Network and Awarding Contract to Bradley & Sons/P&P

e. Groundwater Extraction Well Registration Update

Ms. Chauhan reviewed the following.

Well Registration Progress Update

- To Date: 935 wells registered
- Required Effective May 1
- Estimated 8,000 wells within NKGSA
- Next Steps:
    - Landowner Meetings and Contacts
    - Landowner Workshop
    - White Area Landowner Outreach
    - Individual Meetings

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

Ms. Chauhan reported that yard signs encouraging well registration by November 30 had been placed in the northeast Fresno and Clovis areas, resulting in a strong response from well owners. Additional signs will be produced and placed in areas with a high number of domestic wells to reach those who have not been contacted directly.

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

Well Types Distribution Table

Well Type	Count	Percentage	Distribution
Agricultural Irrigation	504	54.1%	
Domestic	344	36.9%	
Unknown	51	5.5%	
Municipal	18	1.9%	
Industrial	11	1.2%	
Other	2	0.2%	
Fire Protection	1	0.1%	
Total	**931**	**100%**	

- Kerman Workshop – August 27, 2025
  - 40+ in Attendance
  - 58 wells registered
  - On-Site Support Available

Ms. Chauhan noted that Director Pacheco attended the Kerman Workshop and reported that the event was successful.

- Future Workshops
  - Easton – October 29, 2025
  - FID – November 6, 2025
  - Clovis – November 12, 2025
- Participation at:
  - Fresno State University – African American Farmers Association – September 26/27, 2025
  - University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources – October 2025
  - Sierra Resource Conservation District – October/November 2025

Ms. Chauhan noted that the policy includes a late registration fee. After the November 30, 2025, deadline, information on unregistered wells will be presented to the Board for discussion on next steps.

f. Domestic Well Mitigation Program Update

Ms. Chauhan reported that none of the eight applications received for domestic well mitigation have been approved, primarily due to the age of the wells or applicants not meeting income eligibility requirements.

g. Well Permitting Update

Ms. Chauhan noted that the number of well permits within the North Kings GSA boundary continues to trend lower than last year. To date, there have been applications for a total of 153 wells within the North Kings GSA boundary. In 2024, a total of 229 applications were filed for wells in the North Kings GSA boundary. Staff will continue to evaluate each permit application for wells in the North Kings GSA boundary.

A member of the public, Frank Coelho, asked whether the GSA has specifications for new domestic wells. Ms. Chauhan explained that the only specification is a policy establishing a minimum well depth and added that wells drilled above this minimum well depth would not be eligible for mitigation if they go dry.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT (Chauhan)

a. SGMA Implementation Projects Update

Ms. Chauhan noted that Fresno State secured an NRCS grant to support on-farm improvements that help meet mitigation requirements. These include installing meters on all agricultural wells for accurate pumping records, constructing a small basin project, and upgrading their sprinkler system.

Ms. Chauhan mentioned that the Fresno Irrigation District's Carter-Bybee Basin is nearing completion.

b. Outreach / External Affairs Update

- Social Media
- Website

Ms. Chauhan stated that outreach and education efforts have primarily focused on promoting well registration and planning recent and upcoming workshops. It was also noted that two new videos on well registration have been uploaded to the website.

- Speaking Engagements
    - October 8, 2025: Groundwater Resource Association Western Groundwater Congress

Ms. Chauhan reported that she will be attending the Groundwater Resource Association Western Groundwater Conference in San Diego to present on the well registration program and adaptive management efforts aimed at improving program success.

c. Representative Monitoring Network Update

- Obtaining Easements for New Wells – 10
- Data Loggers – Purchased and Ready to Install
- Ready to Award – Bradley & Sons

Ms. Chauhan noted that the DWR TSS well is still pending.

d. Miscellaneous

- Subsidence BMP Comment Letter
- NRCS Projects – Next Solicitation – Fall 2025
- Domestic Well Mitigation Funding – Year 3
- SWRCB Probationary Process
    - Kern Basin – September 17 – Returned to DWR

Ms. Chauhan stated that the NRCS is once again offering its EQIP program, with Fresno Irrigation District (FID) designated as one of the priority areas. As a result, any qualifying lands within FID are eligible to submit applications. The current application deadline is November 14, prior to the anticipated federal furlough. However, this date may be extended depending on the duration of the government shutdown. Ms. Chauhan emphasized that this presents a valuable opportunity not only for individual farmers but also for entities such as Fresno State and other smaller organizations. FID has already submitted projects to leverage EQIP funding. Importantly, applicants are competing only against other FID landowners, as the funding is dedicated specifically to the FID service area.

Ms. Chauhan mentioned that discussions regarding Year Three funding for the Domestic Well Mitigation Program will begin soon, and a recommendation will eventually be presented to the Board.

10. 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

Alternate Director Mendes – noted that he has been attending the San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority meetings

Director Mascia – nothing to report

11. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Chairman Prieto adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm.

Submitted by,

Kassy D. Chauhan

Kassy Chauhan, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer