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

TELECONFERENCE / IN-PERSON MEETING

AGENCIES – DIRECTORS / ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT

Vice Chairman Brian Pacheco, County of Fresno
Director Steve Pickens, Bakman Water Company
Alternate Director Drew Bessinger, City of Clovis
Director Kyle Moeller, Fowler Packing
Director Karl Kienow, Garfield Water District

BOARD SEATS ABSENT

Alternate Director Nicholas Mascia, City of Fresno
Chairman Jerry Prieto, Jr., Fresno Irrigation District

MEMBER AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Executive Officer Kassy Chauhan, Fresno Irrigation District
Fiscal Agent De Ann Stork, Fresno Irrigation District
Fiscal Agent in training Andrea Ball, Fresno Irrigation District
Advisory Committee Chairman Scott Redelfs, City of Clovis
Technical Workgroup Chairman – Adam Claes, Fresno Irrigation District
General Manager Bill Stretch, 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 Vice Chairman Pacheco at 6:02 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Pacheco led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. REVIEW AGENDA

(Additional Agenda Items – Requires Majority Approval of Board - §54954.2(b)

No changes to the agenda.

4. REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Vice Chairman Pacheco inquired whether the November 20 board meeting would be canceled. Ms. Chauhan confirmed that the plan is to cancel the November 20 meeting, schedule a special meeting in early December, and subsequently cancel the December 18 meeting.

5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (for items not on agenda) – 3 Minutes Maximum Per Person, 10 Minutes Maximum Per Subject

Mr. Phil Desatoff, General Manager of Consolidated Irrigation District and a member of the GSA, expressed that he and neighboring landowners have concerns regarding the requirement for all wells, including domestic wells to be registered and requested an explanation of the reasons for this requirement.

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 2024-25 Audited Financial Statements (CJ Brown CPAs)

Ms. Stork introduced Mr. Jonathan Abadesco from C.J. Brown and Company CPAs who attended via teleconference to present the 2024-25 audit results.

Mr. Abadesco reported that they have issued an unmodified or clean opinion, indicating that the financial statements are in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Regarding the management report, it was determined that there are no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. It was noted that there are proper checks and balances within the NKGSA controls.

Mr. Abadesco noted that the net position increased due to ongoing operations. Total revenues rose primarily because of higher member contributions compared to the prior year. Total expenses also increased, driven mainly by higher professional service costs,

including engineering and consulting fees, as well as Kings Basin Coordination expenses related to agency projects.

Ms. Stork noted that the Advisory Committee did review the audit and recommended bringing it before the Board.

M/S/C (Kienow/Pickens) That the Board of Directors approved the 2024-25 Audited Financial Statements as presented by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Bessinger, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – Prieto, Jr., Mascia; Abstain – 0)

b. Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of the Final Expense Report for June 2025

c. Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of the Final Financial Statements as of June 30, 2025

Ms. Stork stated that the June expense reports and financial statements have been previously reviewed and are being presented to the Board tonight for approval, noting that the Advisory Committee has also reviewed them.

M/S/C (Pickens/Moeller) That the Board of Directors approved the Final Expense Report for June 2025 and the Final Financial Statements as of June 30, 2025, as presented by staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Bessinger, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – Prieto, Jr., Mascia; Abstain – 0)

d. Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of the Expense Report for August 2025

Ms. Stork presented the expense report for August 2025, noting that they are normal and customary.

e. Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of the Financial Statements as of August 31, 2025

Ms. Stork reported that the August 31, 2025, financial statements still reflected funds in the BMO checking account; those funds have since been transferred to Five Star Bank, and all transactions are now occurring through Five Star. It was also noted that the reserve for the well monitoring program increased, consistent with the Board's prior action to move remaining member balance funds into that reserve.

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

f. Local Agency Investment Fund Update

Ms. Stork reported on the interest earned in the third quarter from the LAIF account, noting that it was significantly higher than the returns previously received at BMO.

g. Member Agency Participation Invoices Update

Ms. Stork noted that all members have now submitted payment.

Ms. Stork introduced Ms. Andrea Ball and explained that Ms. Ball will be her replacement at Fresno Irrigation District and will be shadowing her until she retires next year.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Discussion / Possible Action on Special Board Meeting Minutes – October 2, 2025

There were no corrections to the October 2, 2025, meeting minutes.

M/S/C (Pickens/Bessinger) That the Board of Directors approved the minutes of the October 2, 2025, Special Board meeting, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Bessinger, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – Prieto, Jr., Mascia; Abstain – 0)

b. Discussion / Possible Action – Approve Schedule of Meetings in 2026 for the North Kings GSA Board of Directors

Vice Chairman Pacheco inquired whether all Board members had reviewed the proposed 2026 meeting schedule. With no objections, Vice Chairman Pacheco requested a motion.

M/S/C (Moeller/Bessinger) That the Board of Directors approved the Schedule of Meetings in 2026 for the North Kings GSA Board of Directors, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Bessinger, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – Prieto, Jr., Mascia; Abstain – 0)

c. 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
    - Now anticipated after the first of the year
- Annual Report review by DWR – importance of well measurement data
- Domestic Well Mitigation Program ongoing
    - Anticipate the first well to be replaced will be in MAGSA
- Coordinated work on Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) Continues
- Requested Prop 4 funding not be delayed
- Considering Lobbyist consultation services

Mr. Samuelian stated that discussions on the Allocation Framework are ongoing and that comments from Central Kings and Kings River East are expected tomorrow. The framework will then be circulated to the basin for any final comments, with the goal of finalizing the document at the November 21 meeting. Following approval, it will be distributed to the GSAs for consideration of adoption during December and January. He also noted that comments are anticipated from MAGSA, although they have indicated they are not yet prepared to adopt an allocation framework.

Mr. Samuelian reported that Prop 4 funding will not be available until 2027–2028 due to the requirement for DWR to develop guidelines. Staff will be drafting a letter for discussion at the coordination meeting, with plans to request an exemption from the guideline process in favor of a simpler regulatory approach.

Vice Chairman Pacheco informed Mr. Samuelian that a question regarding well registration for the overall basin was raised during the public comment portion of the meeting. It was noted that Ms. Chauhan, Executive Officer, would address the matter later in the meeting.

d. Water Conditions Update

Mr. Claes presented the following:

- San Joaquin River
  - Millerton Lake Storage – ~256,000 AF
  - San Joaquin River Release - ~500 cfs
  - Friant-Kern Canal - ~600 cfs
  - Friant Class 1 – 100 %
  - Friant Class 2 – 3 blocks of URFs (~1,900 AF total for FID)
- Kings River
  - Pine Flat Storage - ~269,000 AF
  - Pine Flat Release - ~111 cfs
  - Pre-Project - < 300 cfs
  - FID Storage - ~60,000 AF

Mr. Claes presented the Tulare Basin 6-Station Precipitation Index chart for the completed 2024–2025 water year, which ran from October 2024 through September 2025. The data indicated no precipitation in October; above-average levels in November; below-average levels in December and January; above-average levels in February and March; below-average levels from April through June; no precipitation in July; and above-average levels in August and September. For the 2025–2026 water year, which began in October 2025, October recorded above-average precipitation, with 2.4 inches compared to the historical average of 1.2 inches.

Mr. Claes shared two National Weather Service charts providing a three-month outlook for November 2025 through January 2026. The data indicated equal chance of wetter or drier than average conditions.

Mr. Claes also shared two charts from AccuWeather regarding La Niña, noting that La Niña conditions exist when eastern Pacific Ocean water along the equator is colder than normal. It was also noted that past La Niña events have resulted in both very wet and very dry years.

e. Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Redelfs mentioned that the Advisory Committee last met on October 17, noting that the audit and the financials were reviewed and thanked the Board for approving those items tonight.

Advisory Committee's Recommended Actions:

- Approval of the FY 2024-2025 Audited Financials and Auditor Report
- Expense Report and Financial Statements – Recommend Approval

f. Groundwater Extraction Well Registration Update

Ms. Chauhan reviewed the following:

Well Registration Progress Update

- To Date: 2,551 wells registered
- Required Effective May 1
- Estimated 8,000 wells within NKGSA
- Final Push to Deadline:
    - Landowner Meetings and Contacts
    - Landowner Workshops
    - White Area Landowner Outreach
    - Individual Meetings

Ms. Chauhan responded to the public comment from earlier in the meeting explaining that the well registration policy was approved and applies to all wells, including agricultural, municipal, and domestic. The policy is designed to provide a complete dataset, enabling informed management decisions based on all extractions within the GSA. While individual domestic wells may have minimal impact, collectively they are significant. The registration is intended to inform management strategies, not to require meters or extraction reporting on domestic wells, but to understand potential impacts in specific areas.

Ms. Chauhan presented a graphic illustrating the types of wells registered, noting the overwhelming response. It was also noted that the graphic was already outdated, as it reflected 2,509 of the 2,551 wells registered to date.

Well Types Distribution Table

Well Type	Count	Percentage	Distribution
Domestic	1225	48.8%	
Agricultural Irrigation	978	39%	
Unknown	155	6.2%	
Municipal	69	2.8%	
Other	33	1.3%	
Industrial	20	0.8%	
Dual Use (Ag and Domestic)	20	0.8%	
Stockwatering	4	0.2%	
Fire Protection	2	0.1%	
Monitoring	2	0.1%	
Dewatering	1	0%	
Total	**2509**	**100%**	

- Workshops – Well Registration
  - Easton – Immanuel Lutheran Church – October 29, 2025
    - 60 in attendance
    - 75-100 wells registered
    - On-site Support
  - Fresno – Fresno Irrigation District – November 6, 2025
    - 40 in attendance
  - Clovis – Clovis Senior Activity Center – November 12, 2025
- Direct Mailer to Landowners That Have Not Registered
  - Postcard
  - Full Registration Packet
- Participation at:
  - University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources – October 2025
  - Sierra Resource Conservation District – October/November 2025
  - Grape and Tree Nut Expo – November 14, 2025

Ms. Chauhan noted that registering wells provides landowners access to the Domestic Well Mitigation Program and potentially future programs. The goal is to be a resource for domestic well owners, not just collect information. Registration completed before the November 30 deadline has no fee; registration after that date is still allowed but may require a fee. It was also noted that response from the landowners so far has been very positive.

Ms. Chauhan stated that the November 30 registration deadline is approaching and proposed providing an update during a December special meeting. The update would include the percentage of registrations received before the deadline and allow the Board to give direction on next steps, including when to begin charging the well registration fee for registrations submitted after the deadline.

Vice Chairman Pacheco emphasized that, to maintain local control, all parties must comply and register their wells.

Mr. Desatoff (provided public comment previously in the meeting) expressed concern that the next requirement may involve installing meters on wells to enable charging landowners based on water usage.

g. Domestic Well Mitigation Program Update

Ms. Chauhan reported that there are currently no domestic well mitigation applications in progress, and we are not providing interim bottled water or well replacement services at this time.

h. Well Permitting Update

Ms. Chauhan noted that the number of well permits within the North Kings GSA boundary remains significantly lower than at the same time in 2024.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT (Chauhan)

a. SGMA Implementation Projects Update

Ms. Chauhan reported that there is no significant new information regarding SGMA implementation projects. Agencies are encouraged to be prepared for Prop 4 funds being released. Some agencies plan to apply for NRCS funding, and Fresno State recently received an NRCS grant to begin required mitigation work, positioning them to apply for

additional funds in the next round. The original NRCS application deadline was November 14, but due to the federal government shutdown, that deadline is expected to be extended. Staff will continue to update landowners as more information becomes available.

Ms. Chauhan noted that the City of Kerman will receive an APWA award next week for the Lions Park Reservoir recharge project, recognizing it as a small environmental project. Ms. Chauhan thanked Director Kienow for highlighting this opportunity.

b. Outreach / External Affairs Update

- Social Media
- Website

Ms. Chauhan noted that the primary focus has been on well registration requirements and ensuring landowners receive the necessary information, so most of the social media posts and emails have centered on that topic.

- Speaking Engagements
    - October 8, 2025: Groundwater Resource Association Western Groundwater Congress
    - November 4, 2025 – UC Davis – Small Farms Roundtable
    - November 14, 2025 – UCANR – Recharge Roundtable

Ms. Chauhan reported attending the Small Farms Roundtable at UC Davis, where discussions focused on the impacts to small farms and what allocations mean for them. It was noted that there is no consistent definition of a small farm. During the meeting, a small farm was identified as roughly 300 acres, whereas within FID, the average small farm is 20–40 acres.

c. Representative Monitoring Network Update

- Obtaining Easements for New Wells – 10
- Data Loggers – Purchased and Ready to Install
- Awarded – Bradley & Sons
    - Notification to Adjacent Landowners
    - Will Start Construction

Ms. Chauhan stated that a contract was awarded to Bradley & Sons to begin the first batch of dedicated monitoring wells. All insurance and bond requirements are complete, and work will soon start. These 10 dedicated wells are essential, as recent monitoring in October found one well could not be measured due to insufficient water.

d. Miscellaneous

- Legislation Update
  - AB 293 (Bennett) – Passed
    - Link to Form 700 for all Directors on our Website
  - AB1413 (Papin) – Inactive
  - AB1466 (Hart) – Pending – Senate Floor
- Tulare Lake Basin – Court Ruling

Ms. Chauhan stated that in late October, the Fifth Appellate District Court of Appeals ruled that the trial court must grant the State Water Resources Control Board a demurrer, finding that the Kings County Farm Bureau's core claims against the state were unfounded. The ruling confirmed that the state acted within its legislative authority in requiring well registration, fees, and extraction reporting.

- SWRCB Probationary Process
  - Kern Basin – Returned to DWR
  - Kaweah Basin – Staff Report Released – Hearing – December 2, 2025

Ms. Chauhan noted that the State Water Board is recommending the Kaweah Basin be returned to DWR, citing satisfactory progress on its updated groundwater sustainability plan.

10. <u>DIRECTORS REPORT</u>

Director Pickens – nothing to report

Director Kienow – nothing to report

Director Prieto – absent

Alternate Director Bessinger – nothing to report

Director Moeller – nothing to report

Alternate Director Mascia – absent

Vice Chairman Pacheco - nothing to report

11. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Vice Chairman Pacheco adjourned the meeting at 6:51 pm.

Submitted by,

Kassy Chauhan

Kassy Chauhan, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer