THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR
APRIL 23, 2026, 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
Director Steve Pickens, Bakman Water Company
Alternate Director Nicholas Mascia, City of Fresno
Director Matthew Basgall, City of Clovis
Director Karl Kienow, Garfield Water District

BOARD SEATS ABSENT

Director Kyle Moeller, Fowler Packing
Vice Chairman Brian Pacheco, County of Fresno

MEMBER AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Executive Officer Kassy Chauhan, North Kings GSA
Fiscal Agent De Ann Stork, North Kings GSA
Advisory Committee Vice-Chair Adam Claes, North Kings GSA
Fresno Irrigation District Representative – General Manager Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District
Legal Counsel Andrew Aller, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud, & Romo (via teleconference)
Executive Assistant Laurie Kiser, North Kings GSA

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 6:02 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Prieto led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Chauhan noted that no advance requests for public comments or written comments were received. Public comments will be taken under the appropriate action item and following each agenda item.

Chairman Prieto noted the absence of Director Pacheco and Director Moeller. Chairman Prieto also noted an inability to attend the June 25, 2026, meeting.

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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. **ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Claes)**

Vice-Chair Mr. Claes reported filling in for Chairman Scott Redelfs at the last Advisory Committee meeting on April 10, 2026, and provided a brief of that Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Claes stated that the committee recommends approval of the following:

a. Advisory Committee Update from April 10, 2026, Meeting – Recommended Approvals

- Approve Expense Reports for January and February 2026
- Approve Financial Statements as of February 28, 2026
- Approve Revised Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
- Discussion on the Draft Enforcement Policy – NKGSA 2026-001 – including applicability and tiered penalties for non-compliance with NKGSA policies.
  - Further review by legal counsel from individual agencies prior to taking action to recommend approval.
- Discussion on the updated Advisory Committee roster

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS (Stork)

a. Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of the Expense Reports for January and February 2026

Ms. Stork reported that the expenses for January and February were normal and customary.

M/S/C (Kienow/Basgall) That the Board of Directors approved the Expense Reports for January and February 2026, as presented by staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Prieto, Jr., Mascia, Basgall; Nays – 0; Absent – Moeller, Pacheco; Abstain – 0)

b. Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of the Financial Statements as of February 28, 2026

Ms. Stork reported on the total expenses as of February 28, 2026, and noted that four months remain in the fiscal year.

M/S/C (Mascia/Basgall) That the Board of Directors approved the Financial Statements as of February 28, 2026, as presented by staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Prieto, Jr., Mascia, Basgall; Nays – 0; Absent – Moeller, Pacheco; Abstain – 0)

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

Ms. Stork reviewed the revised budget and highlighted the items that were modified.

Chairman Prieto inquired about the status of monitoring well construction. Ms. Chauhan reported that Phase 1, consisting of the first ten wells, is complete and that, pending budget approval, an additional ten to twelve wells are anticipated to be drilled during Phase 2 (2026–2027).

Ms. Chauhan noted that the budgeted amount for the domestic well mitigation program will be rolled over and retained in the domestic well mitigation revolving fund, as the funds are earmarked for well mitigation.

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

9. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Discussion / Possible Action on Regular Board Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2026

There were no corrections to the February 26, 2026, meeting minutes.

M/S/C (Pickens/Mascia) That the Board of Directors approved the minutes of the February 26, 2026, Regular Board Meeting, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: *(*Ayes – Pickens, Prieto, Jr., Mascia, Basgall; Nays – 0; Absent – Moeller, Pacheco; Abstain – Kienow)

b. Kings Subbasin Coordination Update

Mr. Samuelian reviewed the following:

- Allocation Framework
  - Approved and accepted by the GSA's
- DWR reviewing Periodic Evaluations
  - Starting to conference with some basins
  - Likely several more months before we hear back from DWR
- Annual Report Preparation submitted
  - DWR reviewing
  - Expecting comment mid/late summer
- DWR released Land Subsidence Best Management Practice (BMP)
  - Special meetings with point of contact, now basins, then region
- Coordinated work on Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) - DWR BMP by June 30, 2026
- Domestic Well Mitigation Program ongoing
- Prop 4 Funding update
  - Workshop April 30, 2026, on SGMA and Water Resilience (formerly IRWM)

- SGMA funding ($350+M) likely released in one round, so one shot statewide
- SGMA funding and Water Resilience ($200M) will be staggered, applications not due at the same time

Kings Subbasin Annual Report

- Submitted March 31, 2026
  - Posted to Website:
    - https://northkingsgsa.org/annual-reports/
- Since 2015, surface water supplies are about 91% of long-term average and since 2020 the total surface water supplies are well below the long-term average at 82%.
- No Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) wells (123 wells in Basin) below MTs in basin – Monitoring Levels In Relation to IMs
- 9 wells exceeded MTs for Water Quality (1 of 35 in NKGSA)
- Change is Storage: -160,000 AF

Table 2-6 – Summary of Total Water Use for WY 2025 (AF)

Description	Urban	Agriculture	Total
Groundwater	154,000	1,402,000	1,556,000
Surface Water	132,000	927,000	1,059,000
Total	286,000	2,329,000	2,615,000

Notes:
1 - Surface water includes contract diversions, riparian diversions and recycled water used for both recharge and direct use
2 – Values rounded to the nearest 1,000 AF; values may differ slightly from other reported values due to rounding errors

c. Water Conditions Update

Mr. Claes presented the following:

2026 Snow & Water Conditions:

- During October/November/December 2025, warm storms filled reservoirs early
- FID started mid-March to avoid spilling ~30k AF
- March was “outside of climatology”

- March snowmelt rates typical of those in May
- Zero precipitation in March…first time in 104 years
- Statewide April 1 snowpack is 2nd lowest on record

Mr. Claes presented the Tulare Basin 6-Station Precipitation Index chart for the 2025–2026 water year, which began on October 1, 2025. The chart showed above-average precipitation in October and November, average precipitation in December, below-average precipitation in January, above-average precipitation in February, no precipitation in March, and below-average precipitation to date in April.

Water Conditions Update:

- San Joaquin River
    - Millerton Lake Storage – ~445,000 AF
    - SJR Release - ~880 cfs
    - Friant-Kern Canal - ~1,200 cfs
    - Friant Class 1 – 100 %
    - Friant Class 2 – 0%
- Kings River
    - Pine Flat Storage - ~832,000 AF
    - Pine Flat Release - ~1,600 cfs
    - Pre-Project - ~3,500 cfs
    - FID Storage - ~141,000 AF

Snow Conditions & Runoff Forecasts

- April 1 snow surveys:
    - San Joaquin River: 35% of April 1 avg
    - Kings River: 45% of April 1 avg (March 1 was 79%)
        - Highest % in California

- Kings River Runoff Projections

Latest Runoff Forecasts	April-July	WY (Oct 2025-Sept 2026)
DWR Bulletin 120	54% of avg	73% of avg
NOAA CNRFC	62% of avg	83% of avg

(Usually April-July % is nearly same as WY %)

Summary:

- Projecting 2026 to be ~46-60% of avg April-July runoff
- 2025: 75% of avg April-July runoff

Mr. Claes reported that snowmelt rates observed in March were comparable to typical May conditions and presented charts illustrating that rapid snowmelt occurred approximately one to two months earlier than normal this year compared to last year.

Mr. Claes shared two National Weather Service charts providing a three-month outlook for May through July 2026. The data indicated drier than normal conditions.

2026 FID Irrigation Season

- Deliveries began March 16, 2026
- Project to likely extend deliveries through July
    - Normal: 5 months (2024)
- Minimizing groundwater recharge to maximize length of direct deliveries
- FID benefits from what we do not have: a cool spring

Chairman Prieto inquired about the timing of the next snow survey. Mr. Claes explained that the survey would occur either the following day or the next week and would include both on-the-ground measurements and an Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO) flight.

d. Groundwater Extraction Facility Registration Progress Update

Ms. Chauhan reviewed the following:

Well Registration Progress Update:

- To Date: 8,219 wells registered
- Required Effective May 1

- More than 10,000 wells within NKGSA
- Deadline:
  - Final Deadline was January 30, 2026
  - Late Fee Started – February 1, 2026

Well Types Distribution Table

Well Type	Count	Percentage	Distribution
Domestic	4497	54.7%	
Agricultural Irrigation	2843	34.6%	
Municipal	351	4.3%	
Dual Use (Ag and Domestic)	210	2.6%	
No Type Selected	149	1.8%	
Other	101	1.2%	
Stockwatering	28	0.3%	
Industrial	24	0.3%	
Fire Protection	6	0.1%	
Monitoring	6	0.1%	
Dewatering	4	0%	
Total	**8219**	**100%**	

- Next Steps:
  - Late Registration Fee Implemented - $100 per wellhead
    - Started February 1, 2026
    - 139 waivers issued; 28 late payments
  - Development of Enforcement Policy for Failing to Comply with GSA Policies/Requirements
    - Consider at May Meeting
  - Phase II Includes Identify Landowners With Wells Not Registered
    - Ongoing – Most of 2026
    - 4,100 Parcels (2+ Acres) – No Registration Activity
    - 2,161 Parcels (5+ Acres) No Registration Activity
    - 1,352 Addresses – 941 With Crops

Ms. Chauhan noted that the enforcement policy was discussed at the last Advisory Committee meeting and is anticipated to be brought before the Board for approval in May 2026. It was also noted that the proposed policy includes a tiered enforcement approach, beginning with a first notice requiring payment of the late registration fee, followed by a second notice that would include a penalty in addition to the $100 per wellhead late registration fee, with escalating penalties thereafter. The goal is to encourage landowners to register wells before stronger enforcement measures become necessary.

Ms. Chauhan also noted that the enforcement policy was intentionally drafted broadly so it can apply to enforcement of any GSA policy moving forward, not just well registration. The policy is intended to address compliance with all current and future GSA policies.

Chairman Prieto inquired how the GSA is identifying parcels with unregistered wells. Ms. Chauhan explained that Phase 1 included a GIS analysis identifying approximately 4,100 parcels and 2,161 potential violations. Phase 2 will involve outreach through letters and notifications, with a tracking system to monitor responses, recognizing that not all parcels may contain wells. Phase 3 may include site visits for unresponsive parcels to verify well presence prior to final enforcement actions.

Further discussion was held regarding outreach to affected landowners, potential enforcement actions for unregistered wells, and consideration of leniency measures for noncompliant property owners.

e. Domestic Well Mitigation Program Update

Ms. Chauhan reported limited demand for the Domestic Well Mitigation Program and presented the below chart. It was noted that two applications were received since the last Board meeting, both of which were denied due to the age of the wells.

	CKGSA	KREGSA	NFKGSA	NKGSA	Total
Prior to start of program	0	0	2	0	2
Well Not Dry	0	0	0	3	3
Age > 50 years	1	0	1	6	8
Income > Limit	1	0	0	1	2
Total Per GSA	2	0	3	10	15

f. Well Permitting Update

Ms. Chauhan noted that updated numbers regarding well permitting have not yet been received from Fresno County but wanted to keep the item on the agenda due to feedback regarding delays in the issuance of agricultural well permits. Board members were asked to report any concerns related to permit delays, particularly if they appear to involve delayed responses from the North Kings GSA. Ms. Chauhan stated that all related emails are reviewed, entered into a database, and typically processed within one week in an effort to avoid contributing to delays.

10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT (Chauhan)

a. SGMA Implementation Projects Update

Ms. Chauhan noted that all agencies need to be prepared with their projects once Proposition 4 funding becomes available, as the funding is expected to be highly competitive and demand often exceeds available grant dollars. It was also reported that one of the DWR Proposition 68 grants is being finalized. That grant included several components, including funding for FID's Savory Basin project within the North Kings GSA.

b. Outreach / External Affairs Update

Ms. Chauhan mentioned that outreach and external affairs efforts continue through active social media engagement and maintaining current website information. Messaging remains focused primarily on reminding the public of well registration requirements.

c. Representative Monitoring Network Update

- Construction Completed on 10 wells
- DWR TSS Well
    - Drilling Scheduled for April 27, 2026
- Planning for Next Phase of New Monitoring Wells

Ms. Chauhan shared photos of monitoring reports related to water pressure and water levels and reported that all ten wells from the first phase have been integrated into the dashboard system. It was explained that the wells are equipped with telemetry for remote monitoring, allowing for more frequent data collection and real-time tracking to support evaluation of groundwater recharge efforts. The importance of the wells was emphasized,

as the Department of Water Resources is closely monitoring groundwater level data in evaluating GSA sustainability efforts.

d. Miscellaneous

- Tulare Lake Basin
    - Request for Waiver of Penalties/Fees
        - Denied
- SWRCB Probationary Process
    - Delta-Mendota Subbasin
        - Sent back to Department of Water Resources
- Aquaterra: Draft Environmental Impact Report

Ms. Chauhan stated that staff is working with FID and other upper river districts to provide final comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

- DWR – Periodic Evaluation Review
- Legislative Update

Ms. Chauhan reported that staff continues to monitor groundwater-related legislation that could impact GSAs, particularly with respect to local control and potential changes to established sustainable groundwater management requirements.

Ms. Chauhan noted participation in an upcoming California Groundwater Association meeting at the ACWA Conference and indicated that the Board may be asked to consider participation in the association due to its focus on groundwater legislation issues.

- Interested Party Invoice
    - Sent out on April 1, 2026
- Lobbyist for NKGSA – California Groundwater Association and Valley Ag Water Coalition – for consideration in future.

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Pickens – nothing to report

Director Kienow – nothing to report

Director Moeller – absent

Director Prieto – nothing to report

Alternate Director Mascia – nothing to report

Director Basgall – nothing to report

Vice Chairman Pacheco - absent

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted by,

Kassy D. Ch

Kassy Chauhan, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer