THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR
MAY 28, 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
Director Kyle Moeller, Fowler Packing
Vice Chairman Brian Pacheco, County of Fresno

BOARD SEATS ABSENT

None

MEMBER AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Executive Officer Kassy Chauhan, North Kings GSA
Fiscal Agent De Ann Stork, North Kings GSA
Fiscal Agent in training Andrea Ball, 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 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Prieto led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Chauhan noted that a couple of members of the public are joining online; however, 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.

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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

Ms. Chauhan noted that the June Board Meeting would be cancelled due to lack of action items.

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

a. Advisory Committee Update from May 8, 2026, Meeting – Recommended Approvals

- Approve Expense Reports
- Approve Financial Statement
- Approve Proposed Budget for FY 2026-2027
- Continued Discussion on the Draft Enforcement Policy – NKGSA 2026-001

Ms. Chauhan noted that the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Expense Reports, the Financial Statement, and the Proposed Budget for FY 2026–2027. The Advisory Committee did not take action on the Draft Enforcement Policy at its last meeting and, therefore, is not recommending Board action on that item this evening.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS (Stork)

a. Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of the Expense Reports for March 2026

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

M/S/C (Pickens/Kienow) That the Board of Directors approved the Expense Reports for March 2026, 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 Financial Statements as of March 31, 2026

Ms. Stork reported on the total expenses as of March 31, 2026.

M/S/C (Basgall/Mascia) That the Board of Directors approved the Financial Statements as of March 31, 2026, 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 the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Budget

Ms. Stork reviewed the proposed FY 2026–2027 budget items and highlighted anticipated cost changes from the previous fiscal year.

Ms. Stork reviewed the interested parties list. Ms. Chauhan noted that Fresno State has consistently been an engaged stakeholder and, for the first time, was able to provide a financial contribution to cover its share of GSA costs.

Further discussion occurred regarding the representative monitoring well network and the associated costs.

M/S/C (Basgall/Kienow) That the Board of Directors approved the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Budget, as presented by staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Mascia, Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

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9. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Discussion / Possible Action on Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2026

There were no corrections to the April 23, 2026, meeting minutes.

M/S/C (Kienow/Pickens) That the Board of Directors approved the minutes of the April 23, 2026, Regular Board Meeting, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Pickens, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Mascia, Basgall, Pacheco; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

b. Kings Subbasin Coordination Update

Mr. Samuelian reviewed the following:

- Allocation Framework approved/accepted
- DWR reviewing Periodic Evaluations, starting to conference with some basins
    - Likely several more months before we hear back from DWR
- Annual Report submitted
    - DWR reviewing
    - Expecting comment mid/late summer
- Spring data collection and analysis
- DWR released Land Subsidence Best Management Practices (BMP) – special meetings with POCs, now basins, then region
    - Emphasis is maintaining critical headwater elevation

Mr. Samuelian explained that the headwater elevation represents the water level, or pressure head, that must be maintained to prevent land subsidence.

Mr. Samuelian reported that he and Ms. Chauhan participated on a water summit panel at Fresno State, which was well attended. It was noted that discussions included development of a letter to the Governor identifying water priorities, including increased statewide funding for water infrastructure and conveyance improvements. Discussion also focused on watershed studies, including efforts to expand watershed-based analysis and planning to areas north and south of the San Joaquin River.

Mr. Samuelian also noted that one of the priorities identified during the water summit was continued support for Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO), which uses improved forecasting of snowpack, runoff, and watershed conditions to enhance reservoir management. Discussion also included the importance of continued funding for watershed studies and related data collection efforts to improve water storage and operational decision-making.

- Coordinated work on Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) - DWR BMP not out, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) interest
- Domestic Well Mitigation Program ongoing
- Prop 4 Funding update – SGMA ($350M) and Water Resilience ($200M formerly IRWM)
- Meeting with Delta Mendota Subbasin in June

Kings Subbasin Annual Report

Mr. Samuelian stated that the annual report provides an opportunity to demonstrate ongoing groundwater sustainability efforts. It was noted that groundwater conditions remain a concern despite recent water years and that more than 300 acres of recharge basin projects have been completed or are nearing completion. Additional recharge projects are planned in the coming years to further enhance groundwater recharge efforts.

c. Water Conditions Update

Ms. Chauhan presented the following:

2026 Snow & Water Conditions:

- Oct/Nov/Dec 2025 warm storms filled reservoirs early
- FID started mid-March to avoid spilling ~30k AF
- March was “outside of climatology”
- March snow melt rates typical of those in May
- Zero precipitation in March…first time in 104 years
- Statewide **April 1 snowpack is 2nd lowest on record**

Ms. Chauhan 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. Ms. Chauhan also noted that this is the first time in 104 years that the month of March had no precipitation.

Water Conditions Update:

- San Joaquin River
  - Millerton Lake – ~496,000 AF (dropping, peaked May 18 at 504k AF)
  - San Joaquin River Release - ~410 cfs
  - Friant-Kern Canal - ~1,800 cfs
  - Friant Class 1 – 100%
  - Friant Class 2 – 0%
- Kings River
  - Pine Flat Storage - ~833,000 AF (dropping, peaked May 13 at 877k AF)
  - Pine Flat Release - ~5,400 cfs
  - Pre-Project - ~3,000 cfs
  - FID Storage - ~137,000 AF (141k AF max)

Snow Conditions & Runoff Forecasts

- May 1 snow surveys:
  - San Joaquin River: 22% of May 1 avg
  - Kings River: 29% of May 1 avg (highest % in CA)

- Kings River Runoff Projections

Latest Runoff Forecasts	April-July	WY (Oct 2025-Sept 2026)
• DWR Bulletin 120	• 51% of avg	• 78% of avg
• NOAA CNRFC	• 55% of avg	• 78% of avg

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

Summary:

- Projecting 2026 to be low 50s% of avg April-July runoff
- 2025: 75% of avg April-July runoff

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

d. Groundwater Extraction Facility Registration Progress Update

Ms. Chauhan reviewed the following:

Well Registration Progress Update:

- To Date: 8,229 wells registered
- Required Effective May 1, 2025
- Estimated 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	4502	54.7%	
Agricultural Irrigation	2846	34.6%	
Municipal	351	4.3%	
Dual Use (Ag and Domestic)	210	2.6%	
No Type Selected	151	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	**8229**	**100%**	

- Next Steps:
  - Late Registration Fee Implemented - $100 per wellhead
    - Started February 1, 2026
    - 142 waivers issued; 31 late payments
  - Development of Enforcement Policy for Failing to Comply with GSA Policies/Requirements
    - Consider at July Meeting
  - 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 reported that well registration activity has slowed since the February 1 deadline when late fees were implemented. To date, 4,502 domestic wells and 2,846 agricultural wells have been registered. Staff continues to work on the next phase of well registration and is developing an enforcement policy to address compliance. The policy is anticipated to be presented to the Board for consideration in July.

Chairman Prieto inquired whether legal counsel has been involved in creating the enforcement policy. Ms. Chauhan reported that legal counsel has been involved and has provided significant input during the development of the policy.

Ms. Chauhan noted that landowners who have not registered their wells by the February 1, 2026, deadline can still request a waiver of the late fees.

e. Domestic Well Mitigation Program Update

Ms. Chauhan provided an update on the Domestic Well Mitigation Program, noting that the program is a coordinated effort among the Central Kings, Kings River East, North Fork Kings, and North Kings GSAs. A total of 16 applications have been received to date. No domestic well replacements or interim water supply requests have been approved, primarily because the wells exceeded the program's 50-year age eligibility criterion. Staff continues to receive and evaluate applications.

Ms. Chauhan reported that one domestic well in the Kings Subbasin has been fully mitigated through the McMullin Area GSA. It was noted that the McMullin Area GSA elected to implement its own domestic well mitigation program using the same framework adopted by the Kings Basin GSAs and reported successful mitigation of one well.

	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	2	0	1	6	9
Income > Limit	1	0	0	1	2
Total Per GSA	3	0	3	10	16

f. Well Permitting Update

2026 Year to Date

Well Type – 2026	Count
Agricultural	14
Domestic Private	51
Domestic Public	1
Monitoring	2
Soil Boring	1
Grand Total	69

Well Type – 2026	Count
January	11 (Agricultural 1; Domestic Private 10)
February	21 (Agricultural 4; Domestic Private 15; Domestic Public 1; Soil Boring 1)
March	21 (Agricultural 7; Domestic Private 13; Monitoring 1)
April	15 (Agricultural 2; Domestic Private 12; Monitoring 1)
May	1 (Domestic Private 1)

Ms. Chauhan reported continued coordination with Fresno County regarding well permit applications, noting that the number of new applications remains well below typical levels.

Ms. Chauhan continues to review and track each application, with the majority being for domestic wells.

Chairman Prieto inquired whether staff could distinguish between applications for replacement wells and new wells. Ms. Chauhan confirmed that the purpose of each application can be identified and noted that the majority of applications are for replacement wells.

10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT (Chauhan)

a. SGMA Implementation Projects Update

Ms. Chauhan reported that the Biola Community Services District is making significant progress in implementing its water supply agreement with FID and utilizing its dedicated recharge basin. A ribbon-cutting event is anticipated once water deliveries to the basin commence.

Ms. Chauhan emphasized the importance of preparing and advancing agency projects in anticipation of upcoming Proposition 4 funding opportunities. It was noted that projects that are identified and ready for implementation will be more competitive for grant funding.

b. Outreach / External Affairs Update

Ms. Chauhan provided an update on outreach and external affairs, including the recent Water Summit held at Fresno State. Presentations included updates from the Department of Water Resources and the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint's Unified Water Plan, which seeks to align diverse water interests and provide a unified voice on San Joaquin Valley water issues. It was noted that discussions addressed SGMA-related impacts on Valley communities, the costs associated with potential solutions, significant infrastructure investments needed to address subsidence and other water-related challenges, and the potential development of pilot programs in the San Joaquin Valley to help inform future State actions.

Ms. Chauhan noted that the Groundwater Resources Association Summit will be held in Clovis on June 2 and 3, and that Director Moeller will serve as a panelist. The summit will focus on groundwater issues in the Central Valley and how landowners are adapting to SGMA requirements.

c. Representative Monitoring Network Update

- Construction Completed on 10 wells
- DWR TSS Well – Completed
- Planning for Next Phase of New Monitoring Wells

Ms. Chauhan reported that development of the TSS monitoring well has been completed and that installation of a data logger is the next step. Upon completion, the well will become the 11th monitoring well integrated into the dashboard system, providing real-time groundwater level data. It was noted that the well fills a monitoring gap in an area that previously lacked adequate coverage and represents an important resource for evaluating groundwater conditions and supporting GSA sustainability efforts.

d. Miscellaneous

Ms. Chauhan noted that at the July Board meeting we will be having the renomination and election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Ms. Chauhan reported continued coordination with Fresno State regarding SGMA implementation efforts, including responsibilities related to mitigating groundwater pumping impacts and developing a mitigation plan. It was noted that Fresno State has made a financial contribution toward GSA activities, reflecting a commitment to participate in addressing groundwater management responsibilities within its service area.

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Pickens – nothing to report

Director Kienow – nothing to report

Director Moeller – noted that, as mentioned by Ms. Chauhan, he will be speaking at the SGMA Summit in Clovis. The discussion will focus on how growers' perspectives and approaches to groundwater management have evolved under SGMA, including trends observed among growers throughout the North and South San Joaquin Valley.

Director Prieto – mentioned that it is his birthday today

Alternate Director Mascia – nothing to report

Director Basgall – nothing to report

Vice Chairman Pacheco – nothing to report

12. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Chairman Prieto adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.

Submitted by,

Kassy D. Ch

Kassy Chauhan, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer