THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR
JULY 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
Alternate Director Shay Bakman, 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
Alternate Director Ernest Mendes, 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
Advisory Committee Vice-Chair Adam Claes, North Kings GSA
Advisory Committee Chairman Scott Redelfs, City of Clovis
Fresno Irrigation District Representative – General Manager Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District
Legal Counsel Dave Boyer, 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 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Prieto led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Chauhan noted that the August 27, 2026, Regular Board meeting will be cancelled due to conflicts; however, a Special Board meeting is being scheduled for September 3, 2026.

Ms. Chauhan noted that there are members of the public 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.

3. REVIEW AGENDA
(Additional Agenda Items – Requires Majority Approval of Board - §54954.2(b)

No changes to the agenda.

4. REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Chairman Prieto noted the changes previously reported by Ms. Chauhan regarding the cancellation of the August Regular Board Meeting and the scheduling of a Special Board Meeting in September.

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. BOARD ELECTIONS (Chauhan)

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

Ms. Chauhan stated that, in accordance with the NKGSA Bylaws, the Board annually elects a Chair and Vice Chair at the beginning of each fiscal year.

Ms. Chauhan noted that Director Prieto has served as Chair and Supervisor Pacheco has served as Vice Chair since the formation of the NKGSA. Ms. Chauhan reported Supervisor Pacheco expressed his willingness and desire to continue to serve as Vice Chair, subject to the Board's direction, while recognizing that a transition may be necessary following departure from the Fresno County Board of Supervisors at the end

of 2026.

Ms. Chauhan opened nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. Director Kienow nominated Director Prieto and Director Pacheco to continue serving as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. There were no other nominations.

M/S/C (Mendes/Kienow) 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 – Bakman, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Mascia, Basgall, Mendes; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

8. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

- Approve Expense Reports
- Approve Financial Statement
- Pass Resolution NKGSA 2026-001
- Pass Resolution NKGSA 2026-002 and Conflict of Interest Code Amendments
- Continued Discussion on the Draft Enforcement Policy – NKGSA 2026-001

Mr. Redelfs reported that the Advisory Committee met a couple of weeks earlier and recommends approval of the Expense Reports, Financial Statement, and Resolutions 2026-001 and 2026-002 regarding amendments to the NKGSA Conflict of Interest Code and the ACWA Vision for Our Water Future. Mr. Redelfs noted that the Advisory Committee continues to discuss the Draft Enforcement Policy and anticipates bringing the policy before the Board for approval at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Chauhan noted that Mr. Redelfs has agreed to continue serving as Chair of the Advisory Committee for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS (Stork)

a. Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of the Expense Reports for April and May 2026

Ms. Stork reported that the expenses for April and May were ordinary and customary.

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

b. Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of the Financial Statements as of May 31, 2026

Ms. Stork reported on total expenses as of May 31, 2026, noting that the GSA remains under budget and that May represents the eleventh month of the fiscal year.

M/S/C (Kienow/Moeller) That the Board of Directors approved the Financial Statements as of May 31, 2026, as presented by staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Bakman, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Mascia, Basgall, Mendes; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

10. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Discussion / Possible Action on Regular Board Meeting Minutes – May 28, 2026

There were no corrections to the May 28, 2026, meeting minutes.

M/S/C (Mascia/Basgall) That the Board of Directors approved the minutes of the May 28, 2026, Regular Board Meeting, as presented by Staff, by the following vote: (Ayes – Bakman, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Mascia, Basgall, Mendes; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

b. Review of NKGSA Board of Directors Official Roster

- Seat 3 – In January 2027 – Bakman will be in seat
- Seat 6 – Will change in 2027

Ms. Chauhan stated that Seat No. 3 is a shared seat representing the communities of Biola, the City of Kerman, and Bakman. Ms. Chauhan reported that Director Pickens has been serving in the position, with the current term expiring in December 2026. It was noted that the seat is scheduled to rotate back to Bakman in accordance with the established arrangement among the three agencies. It was also noted that it is anticipated that Bakman will appoint Director Pickens to remain in the seat.

Director Mendes noted that Director Jimenez was not listed as an alternate for the County, Seat No. 6. Ms. Chauhan stated that the list would be updated to add Director Jimenez as the second alternate.

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Attachment A

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OFFICAL ROSTER
July 23, 2026

Background:

Directors are elected officials who have been appointed to serve on the NKGSA Board of Directors by their respective boards, councils or commissions, or are the authorized representative of a member, contracting entity or interested party, per the bylaws for the NKGSA Joint Power Authority (JPA). Each Director can appoint up to two alternatives to serve in their place in case of absence. Annually in July, nominations for chair and vice-chair positions are to be accepted and acted on by the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors Seat No.	Agency	Name	Alternate 1	Alternate 2	Date Appointed	Comment
1	Fresno Irrigation District	Mr. Jerry Prieto	Mr. Ryan Jacobsen		2016	Chair*
2	Garfield Water District	Mr. Karl Kienow	Mr. Ryan Jacobsen		2016	
3	Bakman Water Company*	Mr. Steve Pickens	Mr. Shay Bakman		2020	*Shared seat and City of Kerman elected to have Steve Pickens continue to serve in their place from January 2025 – December 2026.
4	City of Clovis	Mr. Matt Basgall	Mr. Drew Bessinger		2023	
5	City of Fresno	Mayor Jerry Dyer	Mr. Nicholas Macias	Mrs. Georgeanne White	2021	
6	Fresno County	Mr. Brian Pacheco	Mr. Buddy Mendes		2016	Vice-Chair*
7	At-Large	Mr. Kyle Moeller	Mr. Chuck Rodriguez		2022	

*Chairman Prieto and Vice-Chair Pacheco were re-nominated and re-elected in July 2026.

c. Discussion / Possible Action – Consider Recommending Approval of NKGSA Resolution 2026-001 Vision for Our Water Future

Ms. Chauhan reported that the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) developed a vision for California's water future in anticipation of the upcoming gubernatorial election. The initiative is intended to educate gubernatorial candidates on the importance of water, the challenges facing California's water sector, and key policy considerations to support informed decision-making.

Vision for Our Water Future

- Four Pillars
  - Lead on Water
  - Protect Affordability
  - Deliver Critical Infrastructure
  - Modernize Water Management

- Purpose
  - Educate Gubernatorial Candidates and Next Administration on Water
  - Advance Unified Policy Agenda for Safe, Reliable, Affordable Water
- Advisory Committee Reviewed and Recommended Approval
- Next Steps:
  - Notify ACWA and submit resolution and logo
  - Messaging on Social Media

M/S/C (Mendes/Moeller) That the Board of Directors approved the NKGSA Resolution 2026-001 Vision for Our Water Future, as presented by Staff, by the following roll call vote: (Ayes – Bakman, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Mascia, Basgall, Mendes; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

d. Discussion / Possible Action on Adoption of the 2026 Conflict of Interest Code and Resolution NKGSA – 2026-002

Ms. Chauhan reported that, as part of the biennial review of the Conflict of Interest Code, staff worked with legal counsel, Dave Boyer, to update the code and ensure compliance with current requirements. Recommended amendments primarily reflected changes under SB 852 regarding Form 700 filing requirements for public officials who manage public investments. Ms. Chauhan noted that the proposed amendments were also reviewed and approved by County Counsel.

- SB852: Changed filing office for public officials who manage public investments.
  - COI Code Adopted in 2018 – Biennial Reviews
  - Amendments: Fiscal Agent/Controller – File Electronically Each Year – All Disclosures
  - Final Draft Amended COI Code – Reviewed and Accepted by Fresno County Legal Counsel
  - Recommendation: For the Board of Directors to approve the amended COI Code and adopt Resolution 2026-002.
  - Next Steps: Provide documentation and biennial notice to Fresno County.

M/S/C (Bakman/Kienow) That the Board of Directors approved the 2026 Conflict of Interest Code and Resolution NKGSA – 2026-002, as presented by Staff, by the following roll call vote: (Ayes – Bakman, Kienow, Moeller, Prieto, Jr., Mascia,

Basgall, Mendes; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

e. Kings Subbasin Coordination Update

Ms. Chauhan reviewed the following:

- Had a meeting with Delta Mendota Subbasin representatives in June to talk about subsidence and Interbasin coordination
- Met with DWR about their water level monitoring program
    - Follow up meeting scheduled in August
- DWR subsidence special meetings occurring with basins
    - Kings not contacted yet
    - Anticipate a meeting with DWR to happen later this summer or the beginning of fall
- Coordinated work on Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) - DWR BMP not out, Environmental Defense Fund interest
- Allocation Framework – Approved/Accepted
- DWR reviewing Periodic Evaluations, consulting with some basins, we should hear back by December 2026
- Annual Report submitted. DWR reviewing
- Domestic Well Mitigation Program ongoing
- Prop 4 Funding update – SGMA ($350M) and Water Resilience ($200M formerly IRWM)

Ms. Chauhan stated that Proposition 4 funding is expected to become available in late 2026 or early 2027 and noted that agencies are encouraged to prepare eligible projects in anticipation of the upcoming application process.

f. Water Conditions Update

Mr. Claes presented the following:

- San Joaquin River
    - Millerton Lake – ~320,000 AF (dropping ~4k AF/day)
    - San Joaquin River Release - ~350 cfs
    - Friant-Kern Canal - ~2,700 cfs
        - Friant-Kern Canal will be shutting down for its three month maintenance period, November through January, which is done

every three years

- Friant Class 1 – 100%
- Friant Class 2 – 0% (FID acquired ~4k AF or URFs)

- Kings River
  - Pine Flat Storage - ~355,000 AF (dropping ~9k AF/day)
  - Pine Flat Release - ~6,200 cfs
  - Pre-Project - ~615 cfs
  - FID Storage - ~93,000 AF (141k AF max)

Mr. Claes presented a water-year precipitation chart prepared by the California Department of Water Resources showing historical strong El Niño years for the Tulare Basin 6-Station Index region. This chart illustrates that approximately half of the strong El Niño years result in above average precipitation while half result in below average precipitation.

- 2026 Water Year and Season
  - Kings River Runoff:
    - Water Year (October 2025 – September 2026): 75% of average
    - April – July 52% of average
- FID Water Season:
  - March 16 – August 15 (5 months)
  - 2025 was 4 months (70% Water Year)

g. Groundwater Extraction Facility Registration Progress Update

Ms. Chauhan reviewed the following:

Well Registration Progress Update:

- To Date: 8,229 wells registered
  - Domestic: 4,512
  - Agricultural: 2,847
- 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	4512	54.8%	
Agricultural Irrigation	2847	34.5%	
Municipal	351	4.3%	
Dual Use (Ag and Domestic)	210	2.5%	
No Type Selected	152	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	**8241**	**100%**	

- Next Steps:
    - Late Registration Fee Implemented - $100 per wellhead
        - Started February 1, 2026
        - 144 waivers issued; 35 late payments collected
    - Development of Enforcement Policy for Failing to Comply with GSA Policies/Requirements
        - Consider at Special Meeting on September 3
    - 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 stated that, if the Board approves the Enforcement Policy at the September Special Board meeting, the first notices will be sent to landowners who have not registered their wells as soon as possible thereafter.

Further discussion took place regarding the number of wells within the GSA that still need to be registered. Ms. Chauhan stated that efforts are underway to identify wells that have not yet been registered and that the anticipation is that there are 10,000 to 11,000 wells within the GSA.

h. Domestic Well Mitigation Program Update

Ms. Chauhan reported that the Domestic Well Mitigation Program remains active, although demand continues to be limited. Since the last update, two additional applications were received and subsequently denied, one due to the age of the well and the other due to exceeding the program's income threshold. Ms. Chauhan noted that applications are reviewed promptly so applicants can seek assistance from other organizations when necessary. It was also reported that 19 applications have been received throughout the Kings Subbasin, with none resulting in mitigation or well replacement through the NKGSA program.

	Central Kings	Kings River East	North Fork Kings	North Kings	Total Applications Completed
Prior to start of program	0	0	2	0	2
Well not dry	0	0	0	3	3
Age of well over 50	3	0	1	7	11
Over income limit	1	0	0	2	3
Total per GSA	4	0	3	12	19

i. Well Permitting Update

2026 Year to Date

Well Type – 2026	Count
Agricultural	21
Domestic Private	87
Domestic Public	2
Monitoring	2
Soil Boring	1
Grand Total	113

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	21 (Agricultural 4; Domestic Private 17)
June	20 (Agricultural 3; Domestic Private 16; Monitoring 1)
July	4 (Domestic Private 4)
Total	113

- 2024: 229 Total
- 2025: 242 Total
- 2026: 113 Total YTD

Ms. Chauhan reported on well permitting activity within the North Kings GSA, noting that 113 well permits had been reviewed as of the prior week. It was noted that permit activity is below 2025 levels and continues to show a downward trend compared to prior years. Ms. Chauhan stated that most permitted wells are replacement wells for agricultural and domestic use, with few, if any, associated with new water demand.

11. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT (Chauhan)

a. SGMA Implementation Projects Update

Ms. Chauhan reported that Proposition 4 funding is expected to become available and encouraged all agencies to continue refining and prioritizing their SGMA implementation projects in preparation for the upcoming grant opportunities. It was also noted that competition for this funding is anticipated to be significant.

b. Outreach / External Affairs Update

Ms. Chauhan reported that outreach and engagement efforts remain active through social media and the NKGSA website, with a continued focus on Biola Community Services District. A ribbon-cutting event, in coordination with the Biola Community Services District, is scheduled for next Wednesday to celebrate the completion of its groundwater recharge basin. Ms. Chauhan invited the Board to attend the event. It was also noted that the

project represents a significant milestone for the community and is expected to support long-term groundwater sustainability efforts within the critically over drafted basin.

c. Representative Monitoring Network Update

Ms. Chauhan reported that staff continues to work on Phase II of the Dedicated Representative Monitoring Network and anticipates installing eight to ten additional monitoring wells. It was noted that the Board has previously approved $750,000 for the installation of these new dedicated wells.

d. Miscellaneous

Legislative Update:
Ms. Chauhan noted that the Legislature is currently in recess but is expected to consider any remaining bills before adjournment at the end of August. Staff will continue to monitor legislation related to groundwater recharge and potential improvements to support recharge efforts during high-water years. Ms. Chauhan also noted that, following the Board's approval to join the California Groundwater Association, the NKGSA has begun receiving updates from the organization and that its first board meeting is scheduled for August.

Interested Party Update:
Ms. Chauhan reported that funds have been received from Fresno State, Malaga County Water District, and Pinedale County Water District. It is anticipated that E.J. Gallo will also make a contribution.

FY 2025-2026 Audit Update:
Ms. Chauhan noted that the fiscal year is currently in its eleventh month and will soon be coming to a close. It was further noted that CJ Brown will conduct the annual audit following the end of the fiscal year.

Fiscal Agent – Training and Transitioning:

Ms. Chauhan announced the upcoming retirement of Fiscal Agent DeAnn Stork and reported that Andrea Ball has been working closely with Ms. Stork to ensure a smooth

transition of fiscal responsibilities. Ms. Chauhan noted that Ms. Ball joined FID in October 2025 and has been training on both FID and NKGSA fiscal operations. Appreciation was expressed for Ms. Stork's contributions and service to the organization.

12. DIRECTORS REPORT

Alternate Director Bakman – nothing to report

Director Kienow – expressed appreciation for Chairman Prieto and Vice Chair Pacheco for their service and willingness to continue serving, and thanked both for their commitment to the Board

Director Moeller – nothing to report

Director Prieto – mentioned medical issues he is working through

Alternate Director Mascia – nothing to report

Director Basgall – nothing to report

Alternate Director Mendes – noted that the East Kings GSA is going to have a Proposition 218 Election

13. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Chairman Prieto adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

Submitted by,

Kassy D. CA

Kassy Chauhan, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer