

KINGS COUNTY

Water Commission Meeting

John Howe – District 1
Laura Brown – District 4
Harold Reed – Special District

Mark Gilkey – District 2
Roger Reynolds – District 5
Dagoberto Ovalle – City Rep.

Jim Verboon – District 3
Eric Osterling – Member at Large
Sid Palmerin – City Rep.

Secretary: Gregory Gatzka

Staff: Alex Hernandez (559) 852-2679

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Kings County Community Development Agency at (559) 852-2680 by 3:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to this meeting

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 24, 2020, at 5:00 P.M. or soon thereafter

This regular meeting of the Kings County Water Commission will be held at the Kings County Government Center in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Administration Building (Bldg. No. 1), 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford CA.

The Kings County Water Commission requests that all cell phones and other electronic communication devices be muted or turned off while the meeting is in progress.

I. CALL TO ORDER - Chairperson

- A. Roll Call of Water Commission Members: (*Gregory Gatzka- Secretary*)
- B. Elections of officers – *conducted by the commission's Secretary*
 - 1. Open nominations for the election of the following officers for the Water Commission.
 - a. Chairperson
Call for motion, second and voice vote.
 - b. Vice Chairperson
Call for motion, second and voice vote.
- C. Unscheduled Comments:
Any person may address the Commission on any subject matter within the jurisdiction or responsibility of the Commission at the beginning of the meeting; or may elect to address the Commission on any agenda item at the time the item is called by the Chair, but before the matter is acted upon by the Commission. Unscheduled comments will be limited to five minutes.
- D. Approval of Minutes of the March 25, 2019, Joint Special meeting - *Chairperson: call for motion, second and voice vote.*

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act - Dennis Mills KCWD**
 - 1. Update and Presentation
 - 2. Discussion

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Kings County Water Policy- Julianne Phillips

1. Presentation
2. Discussion
3. Recommendation (if desired)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Future Agenda Items:
- B. Member comments:
- C. Staff comments:
- D. Correspondence:

V. ADJOURNMENT – Next Regular meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2020.

KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION

John Howe – District 1
Laura Brown – District 4
Harold Reed – Special District

Mark Gilkey – District 2
Roger Reynolds – District 5
Sid Palmerin – City Rep.

Jim Verboon – District 3
Eric Osterling – Member at Large
David Ayers – City Rep

KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Charles Draxler – Dairy Industry
Vacant – Ag Chemicals & Petroleum
Dusty Ference – Kings County Farm Bureau

Vacant – Water
Bill Tos – Nut Crops
Dennis Tristao – Small Farms

Johnny Starling – Ag Processing
Bob Prys – Feed/Seed & Grain
Brian Potter – Ag Equipment

CALL TO ORDER: A special meeting of the Kings County Water Commission (KCWC) and the Kings County Ag Advisory Committee (KCAAC) was called to order by Greg Gatzka at 5:00 p.m., on March 25, 2019. The KCWC & KCAAC meeting was held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Administration Building 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California.

Roll call of members was conducted by Secretary Gatzka, and a quorum of both the KCWC and the KCAAC were in attendance.

WATER COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: John Howe, Jim Verboon, Roger Reynolds, Sid Palmerin, Eric Osterling, Harold Reed

WATER COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Gilkey, Laura Brown, Dagoberto Ovalle

AG ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: Johnny Starling, Dusty Ference, Dennis Tristao, Bill Tos, Brian Potter

AG ADVISORY MEMBER ABSENT: Charles Draxler, Bob Prys

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Gatzka - Director, Diane Freeman – County Counsel, Chuck Kinney – Deputy Director, Kao Nou Yang – Planner, Alex Hernandez – Planner, Terri Yarbrough – Executive Secretary

VISITORS PRESENT: Joe Neves, Julianne Phillips, Jacob Westra, Karen Ormsby, Dennis Mills, Mark Larson, Dale Melville, Carlos Santos, Justin Mendes, Rebecca Campbell, Craig Pedersen, Doug Verboon

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM

Greg Gatzka requested the Commission and Committee consider appointing a meeting chairperson to conduct the joint meeting. Water Commission Chairperson, John Howe was nominated by Dennis Tristao and seconded by Dusty Ference to serve as the chairperson of both bodies for the purpose of this special joint meeting. Unanimous consent was received.

UNSCHEDULED COMMENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update:

Julianne Phillips provided an update on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. She announced that the five GSAs in the Tulare Lake Sub Basin are working on a basin wide sustainability plan. They are required to provide public outreach and the Kings County Board of Supervisors have offered to hold a public workshop prior to the document being released so the public can understand the document. Ms. Phillips asked for suggestions on the best way to present the information.

Dennis Mills provided background on what has transpired to date regarding the Tulare Lake Sub Basin and the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The plan is approximately 60-70% complete. He also reviewed the different chapters of the plan. The monitoring and management strategies are being evaluated and drafted. A draft should be available in July or August of 2019 and there will be a public review period followed by a public hearing. Jim Verboon asked how much surface water and groundwater is being dealt with. Mr. Mills stated the sub basin covers 520,000 acres and the model will cover double that.

Ms. Phillips asked for input concerning the best way the plan can be presented to the public so that it is easy for them to understand and still provide what is relevant to their concerns. Dennis Tristao commented that this is a very complicated plan and he feels participation in the GSA meetings is important. Julianne suggested that it might be easier for some of the members of the public to reach out to the Board of Supervisors and not bombard the GSA's with questions when they are trying to complete the process. There was discussion and some ideas and concerns that were brought up including whether there would be a need for water meters on the pumps in order to have accurate data, most growers will want to know how they will be affected, let the public know what to expect in the next five years, impacts on cities, residents and city growth.

B. 2019 Kings River Water Deliveries Update:

No presentation was provided

C. Commission and Committee Action on any item listed above:

No action taken.

No presentation was provided

MISCELLANEOUS

- A. **Future Agenda Items** – None
- B. **Staff Comments** – None
- B. **Member Comments** – None
- C. **Correspondence** – None

ADJOURNMENT

There is currently no future meeting scheduled. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted
KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION
AG ADVISORY COMMISSION


Greg Gatzka, Secretary

Water Policy

WHEREAS, water is an essential natural resource for all residents and constituents of the County of Kings (the "County") for agricultural, business, residential, recreational, and personal use;

WHEREAS, due to natural causes such as sequential droughts and growing demand, water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource throughout the State of California;

WHEREAS, increasingly State and Federal regulations continue to make needed water infrastructure projects such as water storage and conveyance projects impossible in California,

WHEREAS, the Kings County Board of Supervisors ("Board") has a duty to protect the public health, safety and welfare by ensuring a sustainable supply of good quality water for all users within the County and the watershed that contribute to both surface and groundwater supplies of the region ;

WHEREAS, the Board believes that its engagement is necessary to preserve local control over scarce water resources; by working with the Kings County Water advisory committee and participating in other activities outside the county like Lake Success and Lake Kaweah enlargement projects_and

WHEREAS, consistent with its duty to protect the public health, safety and welfare, to ensure an environment conducive to successful agribusiness and other economic interests in the County, and to act in the greater public interest, the Board intends to work with the counties of Fresno, Tulare, and Kern to develop regional water infrastructure improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The Kings County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts a Board policy regarding the establishment and maintenance of sustainable sources and supplies of water within the County and important to the region.

2. It is the Board's policy that:

- A. The establishment and maintenance of sustainable water supplies within the County are essential to protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of all residents and water users in the County. Further, the County acknowledges and intends to fulfill its duty to ensure a source of clean, drinking water to all persons within the County.

- B. The establishment and maintenance of sustainable water supplies within the County and its watersheds_are essential to the continuation of local agricultural businesses, which forms the lifeblood of this County.

- C. The County is committed to ensuring that all water sourced within the County, or is a product of watershed that contributes to the economic success of the region is managed to benefit the area.

- D. Based on this policy, the County supports the efforts of the local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies ("GSAs") to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") in their efforts to establish and maintain a sustainable supply of groundwater within the County consistent with

the law, federal, State and local regulations, and sound public policy. The conjunctive use of surface and groundwater must be a priority to preserve both sources of water.

E. Consistent with this policy, the County supports the successful adoption and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) to manage the groundwater of the County as required under SGMA; consistent with the County’s duties to protect the public and production agricultural activities affected by GSP policies.

F. Consistent with this policy, the County supports water sharing agreements, water leasing and water trading among County users, as well as water “banking” through use of the State Water Project aqueducts and other surface-water infrastructure for later use. However, the County disfavors the permanent sale of water allocated to the County.