

Board Members

Joe Neves, District 1
Richard Valle, District 2 - Chairman
Doug Verboon, District 3 – Vice Chairman
Rusty Robinson, District 4
Richard Fagundes, District 5



Staff

Edward Hill, County Administrative Officer
Diane Freeman, County Counsel
Catherine Venturella, Clerk of the Board

**Board of Supervisors
Special Meeting Action Summary**

Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Board of Supervisors Chambers, Kings County Government Center
1400 W. Lacey Boulevard, Hanford, California 93230

☎ (559) 852-2362 ❖ bosquestions@co.kings.ca.us ❖ website: <https://www.countyofkings.com>

COUNTY OF KINGS PUBLIC MEETING PROTOCOL IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

The meeting can be attended telephonically or by the Internet by clicking this link:

<https://countyofkings.webex.com/j.php?MTID=m7907d17185979352372646406c7e466d>

or by sending an email to bosquestions@co.kings.ca.us on the morning of the meeting for an automated email response with the WebEx meeting link information. Members of the public attending via WebEx will have the opportunity to provide public comment during the meeting.

WebEx will be available for access at 8:50 a.m.

Members of the public who wish to view/observe the meeting virtually can do so via the worldwide web at: www.countyofkings.com and click on the “Join Meeting” button or by clicking this

link: <https://youtube.com/live/Y58YrySOCQo?feature=share>

Members of the public viewing the meeting through YouTube will not have the ability to provide public comment.

Members of the public who wish to comment may submit written comments on any matter within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction, regardless of whether it is on the agenda for the Board’s consideration or action, and those comments will become part of the administrative record of the meeting. Comments will not be read into the record, only the names of who have submitted comments will be read into the record. Written comments received by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors no later than 8:00 a.m. on the morning of the noticed meeting will be included in the record, those comments received after 8:00 a.m. will become part of the record of the next meeting. Email is not monitored during the meeting. To submit written comments by email, please forward them to bosquestions@co.kings.ca.us or by U.S. Mail, please forward them to: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Kings, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230.

- I. 9:00 AM **CALL TO ORDER**
ROLL CALL – Clerk of the Board
Pledge of Allegiance
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT



Diane Freeman, County Counsel stated that the Board of Supervisors has convened pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.5, which authorizes the Board to hold a special meeting without complying with the normal 24 – hour notice and posting requirements when a majority of its members find an emergency exists that severely impairs the public health and involves matters upon which prompt action is necessary due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public services and facilities. In order to strictly comply with the statutory requirements, I am asking at the commencement of this meeting that the Board consider making findings that:

- 1) There is an emergency in Kings County due to floods that severely impairs the public health and safety.
- 2) That the emergency involves matters upon which prompt action is necessary due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public services.

ACTION: APPROVED AS PRESENTED (JN, DV, RR, RF, RV-Aye)

Supervisor Verboon stated that the Board cannot interact during unscheduled appearances at the podium unless its for clarifying questions. He asked the audience to share information with the Board so they can make informed decisions.

Supervisor Valle stated that the Board made a decision in closed session at the March 17, 2023 meeting and new information has been discovered since that meeting. In order for the Board to either keep the original order or to amend the order and for transparency this meeting was called to discuss the new information, get new information and give the Board a foundation to make a decision.

II. UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

Any person may directly address the Board at this time on any item on the agenda, or on any other items of interest to the public, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Two (2) minutes are allowed for each item.

Dominic Sween, Water Engineer with J.G. Boswell presented information on water run off, current procedures and projects being handled and future issues due to flooding including Cross Creek, Tule River and Highline Canal. He stated that currently their company has 20,000 acres of farmland under water.

Motion was approved by a unanimous vote to add an item to the agenda pursuant to Gov. Code 54954.2(b)(1) to allow the Board to discuss the information and options presented during public comment by members of the public and interested parties. ACTION: (JN, DV, RR, RF, RV-Aye)

Mark Unruh, Water Department Manager with J.G. Bowell gave an update on flooding and stated that immediate relief for Corcoran would be to cut the levee SouthEast side of Corcoran and a discussion continued with use of a map of the levees shared by Dominic Sween.

George Wurzel, Chief Executive Officer with J.G. Boswell explained that the companies plans were to fill the south end first and then cut 749 if there was no water in the SouthEast and stated that they are not maliciously trying to flood the neighbors. He stated that if the County directs staff to break levees it will be an unprecedented move and asked to all their staff to execute the plan for the levee break at the Boards direction.

Phil Hansen, Kings County resident explained where water should be directed to in order to save areas that have never flooded before and that there are breaches on the Tule and El Rico already.



Erik Hansen, Kings County resident stated that the current breaches are flooding areas and a cut to 749 would save the City of Corcoran and needs to be completed soon before all roads into Corcoran are inaccessible.

Discussion by the Board and audience members continued to include canals and channels and how the cutting of the 749 levee would impact the City of Corcoran and residents of Kings County . There was also discussion on how the cuts need to be upstream to get the water levels down minimizing the risk to the City of Corcoran.

Jim Verboon, Kings County resident stated that there are agreements in place from 1983 between the Kings River Association and the State Water Control Board regarding storing flood waters in the Tulare Lake bed and they should be honored and this flood has not been managed well and steps need to be in place to manage the lake and plan for future flooding so we are not in the same place as today. He asked who wants to assume the liability from the floods when there are homes, communities and lives lost and asked everyone to stop using politics and start using science to deal with the issues.

Gabe Cooper, Corcoran Ranch Manager with J.G. Boswell stated that the assumption is that Tule River East of Corcoran has high flows feeding into our systems and that is where the issues are and levee breaches.

TJ Dystra, Kings County resident stated that the cut to the 749 would relieve issues on the flooding to the City of Corcoran area.

Ceil Howe, Westlake Farms stated that the issues have been controlled by pumping water to where Boswell wants and the natural flow isn't being utilized and his concerns are that Orange County Sanitation has property in the area and haven't stepped up to the table to discuss their impacts.

Discussion by the Board and audience members continued on how technology has changed the landscape and access to information is available 24/7 and how working together will help the Board be informed and make proper decisions for everyone in Kings County. The Board asked clarifying questions of the audience members who have presented information to better understand the locations of the proposed levee breaches with the potential by the end of the season that there could be 1.2 million acre feet of water flowing through the regions channels, water ways and canals.

George Wurzel, Chief Executive Officer with J.G. Boswell stated that from January 2023 to present the reservoirs under United States Army Corps of Engineers should have had water released to lessen the impact on the residents of the County and to protect the citizens of Corcoran.

III.

CLOSED SESSION

- ◆ Threat to Public Services or Facilities – Consultation
with: David Robinson, Sheriff
Diane Freeman, County Counsel
[Govt. Code Section 54957(a)]

ACTION: THE BOARD ISSUED A SECOND ORDER REGULATING FLOOD FLOWS IN RESPONSE TO A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO FLOODING DATED MARCH 18, 2023. (DV, RR, RF, RV-Aye, JN-No)



IV.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

March 21	9:00 AM	Regular Meeting
March 21	2:00 PM	Board of Equalization Regular Meeting
March 28	9:00 AM	Regular Meeting
April 4	9:00 AM	Regular Meeting

Agenda backup information and any public records provided to the Board after the posting of the agenda will be available for the public to review at the Board of Supervisors office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford, for the meeting date listed on this agenda.