

KINGS COUNTY

Water Commission Meeting

Michael Newton – District 1
Laura Brown – District 4
Harold Reed – Special District

Jim Razor – District 2
Roger Reynolds – District 5
Alvaro Preciado – City Rep.

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

Secretary: Chuck Kinney

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

SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, September 25, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. or soon thereafter

This special meeting of the Kings County Water Commission will be held at the Kings County AG Commissioner's Multi-Purpose Room, 680 N. Campus Drive, 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: *(Chuck Kinney- Secretary)*
- B. 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.
- C. Approval of Minutes of the May 22, 2023, Regular meeting - *Chairperson: call for motion, second and voice vote.*

II. OLD BUSINESS – NONE

A. Flood Management recharge efforts

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

III. NEW BUSINESS –

A. GSA updates

- 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 November 27, 2023.

KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION MINUTES

DISTRICT 1
Michael Newton

DISTRICT 2
Jim Razor

DISTRICT 3
Jim Verboon

DISTRICT 4
Laura Brown

DISTRICT 5
Roger Reynolds

MEMBER AT LARGE
Eric Osterling

**SPECIAL DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE**
Harold Reed

CITY REPRESENTATIVE
Alvaro Preciado

CITY REPRESENTATIVE
Sid Palmerin

KINGS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY STAFF:
Chuck Kinney – Secretary (559) 852-2674

Alex Hernandez – (559) 852-2679

CALL TO ORDER: A special meeting of the Kings County Water Commission (KCWC) was called to order by Chairman Reynolds at 5:02 p.m., on May 22, 2023. The KCWC meeting was held in Kings County AG Commissioner's Multi-Purpose Room, 680 N. Campus Drive, Hanford, CA.

Roll call of members was conducted by Secretary Kinney, and a quorum of appointed Committee members were in attendance.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Newton, Jim Razor, Laura Brown, Roger Reynolds, Jim Verboon, Sid Palmerin, Harold Reed

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Alvaro Preciado, Eric Osterling

STAFF PRESENT: Chuck Kinney – Director,
Alex Hernandez – Deputy Director,
Chanda Jackson – Executive Secretary

VISITORS PRESENT: Riley Jones, Jeff Gilcrease, Dennis Mills, Joe McGahan, JJ Westra, Chantal Ouellet, David Merritt, Jay Salyer, Matthew Boyett, Lynda Schrumpt, Paul Stiglich, Marilyn Viera, Kristie Lee

UNSCHEDULED COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
A motion was made and seconded (Razor/Newton) to approve the March 13, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously with Preciado and Osterling absent.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Kings River Conservation District current levee management and status of flood releases** – David Merritt, Kings River Conservation District, provided an overview of the current conditions with flooding and the Kings River Flood Project. He presented a PowerPoint providing information including collaboration efforts, monitoring, irrigation, and groundwater. He displayed graphs and imagery of the weirs and waterflow, including comparisons between water districts as well as between timeframes.

Chairman Reynolds asked, on behalf of Eric Osterling, if the waterflow coming down the Kings River has reduced in the area near West Hills College Lemoore, and if there was a risk of levee failure in that region. Mr. Meritt explained the waterflow has reduced in that area.

- B. Flood management recharge efforts** – Dennis Mills, Kings County Water District/Mid-Kings GSA, provided information on floodwaters and recharge as they pertain to Kings County Water District. He explained the use of the Old River channel during high-flow times. He also described the Old River channel being uncontrolled during years where the flow is well above average, such as this year. He provided additional measurements and metrics of water intake as well as projections for the Old River channel. He continued to expound on water flows and recharge including Apex Ranch, People’s Ditch, and Dutra Ranch.

Chairman Reynolds asked how many wells were measured. Mr. Mills stated between Kings County Water District and Lakeside, the total was approximately 150. Chairman Reynolds provided measurements for various other wells throughout the County.

A visitor asked why the Dutra Ranch would not be pumped at a higher recharge rate. Mr. Mills stated the limits are due to fuel and machinery capacity.

- C. Tulare Lake flood management status** – JJ Westra, Tulare Lake Basin, provided information on the area precipitation in previous years. Mr. Westra displayed a PowerPoint presentation showing weather impact on reservoirs and local flooding. Jim Razor described images of flooding in the local area. He explained the use of levees throughout the area. An audience member inquired about the Kern River flowing into Tulare Lake. Mr. Razor explained the river did in fact make it to the south end. Mr. Westra explained methods being used to protect the levees, prevent erosion, as well as Cross Creek flood control. Mr. Westra mentioned agencies working to assist with the flood damage. Mr. Kinney discussed Kings County Public Works damage repairs, repairs still needing to be made to areas still under water, and the estimated cost of those repairs. Mr. Kinney also discussed estimated loss expenses for agriculture.

Chairman Reynolds asked Assessor/Clerk Recorder Kristie Lee if she had any comment on the effect of the flooding on the Kings County Budget. Ms. Lee discussed estimates of cost towards the County in comparison to the prior year.

Commissioner Brown asked if the County Master Fees will increase due to the additional costs to the County because of the floods. Ms. Lee explained how the fees are established, what they are for, and that they should not be affected by the flooding costs. Matthew Boyett provided additional clarification on County fees.

- D. South Fork Kings GSA Emergency Recharge Policy for review and comment** – Chairman Reynolds introduced the South Fork Kings GSA Emergency Recharge Policy. Dennis Mills provided insight from the perspective of the GSAs on recharge and a brief understanding of the policy. Paul Stiglich, South Fork Kings GSA, provided background and additional information in regard to the policy. Chairman Reynolds inquired about the primary goal of the policy and setting it in place. Mr. Stiglich explained the goal of the policy including how it correlates to the Governor’s Executive Order. Mr. Mills provided more information specific to Mid Kings GSA and their protocol for situations related to the policy. Commissioner Verboon stated he was fond of the incentive nature of the policy. He further

discussed the importance of the water being used for recharge as priority over export.

Chairman Reynolds queried for comments from the Commissioners to be presented back to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Brown suggested encouragement be provided. Dennis Mills spoke regarding applications and requests for water use and recharge projects to California state departments and agencies. Commissioner Verboon recommended incentivizing surplus water use for orchard irrigation. Chairman Reynolds asked if a permit was required by Mid Kings GSA for that type of use. Mr. Mills stated that is the plan. Commissioner Verboon acknowledged the coordination between the GSAs and Water Districts and stated he would rather see water put into the ground rather than flood areas. David Merritt stated coordination from the federal and state government would be beneficial. Mr. Merritt also mentioned the potential for larger obstacles if next year is a flood year and the reservoirs are not down by this year's end.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon/Brown) approving review of comments by Chairman Reynolds to be sent to the Board of Supervisors. Motion carried unanimously with Preciado and Osterling absent.

MISCELLANEOUS

- A. **Future Agenda Items** – Commissioner Brown requested a review from Kings County Counsel regarding Board of Supervisors' abilities to communicate at Water Commission meetings without violating Brown Act.
- B. **Member Comments** – None
- C. **Staff Comments** – Mr. Kinney provided an update on Board of Supervisors' decision regarding the Water Commission comments on the Groundwater Export Ordinance. He stated the Board will bring the comments back for discussion in September.
- D. **Correspondence** – None

Next regular meeting of the Water Commission is scheduled for Monday, August 28, 2023. The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION



Chuck Kinney, Secretary