

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

Kyria Martinez, County Administrative Officer
Diane Freeman, County Counsel
Catherine Venturella, Clerk of the Board

Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting Action Summary

Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2023
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: MULTI PURPOSE ROOM, Administration Building 1, Kings County Government Center
1400 W. Lacey Boulevard, Hanford, California 93230

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

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

<https://countyofkings.webex.com/countyofkings/j.php?MTID=maaad87a709f8848862e68bd784cd6d1b>

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. Remote WebEx participation for members of the public is provided for convenience only. In the event that the WebEx connection malfunctions or becomes unavailable for any reason, the Board of Supervisors reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote access.*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 on the internet at:

www.countyofkings.com and click on the “Join Meeting” button or by clicking this link:

<https://youtube.com/live/QvzooVmdpc4?feature=share>

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

Members of the public 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 may 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. Written comments should be directed to bosquestions@co.kings.ca.us email by 8:00 a.m. on the morning of the noticed meeting to be included in the record, those comments received after 8:00 a.m. may become part of the record of the next meeting. E-mail is not monitored during the meeting. To submit written by U.S. Mail to: Kings County Board of Supervisors, Attn: 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
INVOCATION – Pastor Chad Fagundes - Koinonia Church
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT



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.

Diane Badasci, Deputy Clerk of the Board stated that the Board received written correspondence from Angela Valenzuela and it will become part of the permanent record of the minutes from today's meeting.

Angela Valenzuela, stated that she has been a Kings County employee since 2007 is here to speak her own words and not her departments and stated that she submitted a letter to the Board on September 13, 2023 and read the letter into the record and asked the Board to reconsider Blue Collar Workers as part of Safety and extend the same bonuses to those employees.

Richard Valle, Chairman stated that all Kings County employees received a 1.5% pay increase and asked where the money would come from to fund the request proposed today.

Adam Medeiros, Kings County resident and Kings County Board of Education Board member stated that he is a candidate for District 5 Supervisor and invited everyone to his kick-off event on Sunday, October 8, 2023.

Alex Walker, Kings County resident and Lemoore Rotary Club invited everyone to view their new website that was launched this week and spoke of the community service Lemoore Rotary has accomplished in their 65 years of service. He invited everyone to purchase tickets to the 43rd Annual Rotary Crab Feed on Saturday, November 4, 2023.

Elugia Rubio Reyes, representing Valley Voices spoke in Spanish and then in English, requesting simultaneous interpretation of the Board of Supervisors meeting in Spanish and possibly other languages.

Richard Valle, Chairman stated that he met with Valley Voices members and stated that the Board members and County staff are looking into the request and thanked her for the comments.

Diane Freeman, County Counsel introduced Zachary Adams, Deputy County Counsel to the Board.

Zachary Adams, Deputy County Counsel stated that he is local from the San Joaquin Valley and a resident of Tulare County and looks forward to working for Kings County.

Richard Valle, Chairman stated that since it is campaign season and asked County Counsel to look into whether there is protocol for public comment regarding this topic.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Report out of Closed Session from the regular meeting for September 12, 2023.

REPORT OUT: DIANE FREEMAN, COUNTY COUNSEL STATED THAT THE BOARD TOOK NO REPORTABLE ACTION IN CLOSED SESSION AT THEIR SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 MEETING.

B. Approval of the minutes from the regular meeting for September 12, 2023.

ACTION: APPROVED AS ~~PRESENTED~~ Amended (JN, RF, RR, RV – AYE; DV - ABSTAIN)



IV.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Behavioral Health Department:

1. Consider authorizing the advanced step hire of Grant Zweifel as a Clinical Program Manager at Salary Range 248.0, Step 5.

B. County Counsel:

1. Consider appointing Michael Nordstrom, Cory VanderHam, and Craig Andrew to four-year terms as Directors of the Angiola Water District to qualify, take office, and serve as if elected at a general District election.

C. Sheriff's Office:

1. a. Consider authorizing the Sheriff's Office to allow the Deputy Sheriffs' Association to purchase the service handgun for Deputy Sheriff Kody Holt;
b. Approve the purchase of a Glock handgun as replacement;
c. Adopt the budget change. **(4/5 vote required)**

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

V.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

A. District Attorney's Office – Sarah Hacker

1. Consider approving the Agreement with John Bratsch for legal services effective upon execution through June 30, 2024. **[AGMT 23-147]**

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

B. Administration – Kyria Martinez/Matthew Boyett

1. a. Consider authorizing the County Administrative Officer to sign the Agreement between the Department of Water Resources of the State of California, Empire Westside Irrigation District, and the County for the transfer of 2,000 acre-feet of Table A water from Empire West Side Irrigation District to Kings County; **[AGMT 23-148]**
b. Authorize the County Administrative Officer to sign the Agreement between Sandridge Partners and the County holding the County harmless for being a party to the transfer Agreement between the Department of Water Resources of the State of California, Empire Westside Irrigation District, and the County for the transfer of 2,000 acre-feet of Table A water from Empire Westside Irrigation District to Kings County. **[AGMT 23-149]**

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

VI.

STUDY SESSION

A. Agricultural Department – Jimmy Hook/Mario Gutierrez

1. Receive a presentation on the 2022 Annual Crop Report outlining the status of agriculture in Kings County.

The Board received an update, and the 2022 Annual Crop Report was approved as presented.

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



VII.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS

On their own initiative, Board Members may make a brief announcement or a brief report on their own activities. They may ask questions for clarification, make a referral to staff or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda (Gov. Code Section 54954.2a).

Supervisor Robinson stated that he met with Dr. Lisa Lewis and Christi Lupkes in the Behavioral Health Department and stated that he is coaching soccer.

Supervisor Verboon stated that he was in Washington, D.C. last week with the Valley Voice Policy Council, on transportation issues for the County and he also met with the Kings County Grand Jury.

Supervisor Fagundes stated that he cooked for the Seniors in the Park event hosted by the Commission on Aging and wanted to thank everyone who helped.

Supervisor Neves stated that he continues to monitor Tulare Lake flood water, he attended the West Hills College Lemoore vs. Coalinga volleyball game and announced at the Friday game, he cooked for the Seniors in the Park event hosted by the Commission on Aging and thanked everyone who volunteered at the event where breakfast burritos and Kentucky Fried Chicken was served. He attended the Walk with the Doctor event hosted by Adventist Health, attended the Blues and Roots Festival, attended the Kings County Homelessness Collaborative meeting and stated that the City of Hanford will take action next week at their meeting on the project at Hume and Shepard Avenues.

- ◆ **Board Correspondence: Kyria Martinez stated the Board received email correspondence from Cross Valley Corridor dated September 14, 2023 regarding an invitation into the planning of an improved transit service along the Cross Corridor Valley together with a newsletter. The Board received correspondence from the Board of State and Community Corrections dated August 7, 2023 regarding the 2023-2024 Comprehensive Inspection, Penal Code Section 6031, Welfare & Institutions Code Section 209, Kings County Main Jail. The Board received correspondence from Angela Valenzuela dated September 13, 2023 regarding retention pay and longevity pay. The Board received correspondence from Attorney Alex Dominguez dated September 11, 2023 regarding Berrenda Mesa Water District and the November 7, 2023 Election Appointment of Directors. The Board received correspondence from Martin C. Garcia, CPA dated September 14, 2023 regarding multiple Water District Elections.**
- ◆ **Upcoming Events: Kyria Martinez stated the 40th Annual Special Olympics Kings County Chili Cook-Off will be held on September 23, 2023 at the Hanford Civic Park from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Sarah Mooney Museum will host the Legends of Lemoore Cemetery Walk on September 30, 2023 at 9:00 am and 10:30am. There will be a Links for Life Pink Passion Picnic on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at the Hanford Civic Auditorium. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and tickets are \$35 and must be purchased in advance by calling 559-786-4632. 100% of proceeds stay in Kings County and provide direct services. There will be a Male Fashion Show, Opportunity Drawing, and Picnic lunches will be catered by Pardini's of Fresno. There will be a free Kings County Public Safety Event that will take place on Thursday, October 19, 2023 from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Kettleman City Park. There will be BBQ and information on many services that Kings County offers.**
- ◆ **Information on Future Agenda Items: Kyria Martinez stated that the following items would be on a future agenda: Administration - Vector Borne Illness Local Health Emergency, Agricultural Department – Cooperative Agreements with the California Department of Food and Agriculture for the County's Nursery Inspections program, the County's Asian Citrus Psyllid Bulk Citrus program and for the County's Asian Citrus Psyllid Detection program., Behavioral Health – Agreements with CalMHSA for BHIQIP Amendment and Medical Peer Support Specialist,**



Community Development Agency – Initiated Notice of Partial Non-Renewals of Land Conservation “Williamson” Act Contracts, County Counsel – Appointments of Director to the Green Valley Water District In lieu of Election, appointment of Directors to the Tulare Lake Drainage District and Appointment of Directors to the Corcoran Irrigation District, Fire – Approval of purchases for a washer-extractor and Rescue 42 vehicle Stabilization System, Public Works – Stratford Levee project and County Tract 936 Phase 8 & 9 Subdivision Improvement agreement.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

- ◆ **Workers Compensation: (1 Case) [Govt. Code Section 54956.95]**
- ◆ **Conference with Real Property Negotiator [Government Code Section 54956.8]**
Property: Avenal Courthouse
 501 E. Kings Street
 Avenal, CA 93204

Negotiation Parties: Kyria Martinez
Under Negotiation: Purchase of Property

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Multi Purpose Room, entrance is located across the hall from Board Chambers.

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

September 26	9:00 AM	Regular Meeting
October 3	9:00 AM	Regular Meeting
October 10	9:00 AM	Regular Meeting
October 10	2:00 PM	Regular Meeting – Board of Equalization
October 17	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.

September 13, 2023

Board of Supervisors
Kyria Martinez, County Administrative Officer
1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

Dear all,

Yesterday, your Board took action to provide retention pay in the amount of \$10,000 to Safety employees over the next 2 years. I feel compelled to speak out.

Firstly, I am here to advocate on behalf of all Blue Collar Workers who are not deemed "safety" from the County's perspective.

I will provide you with some response examples:

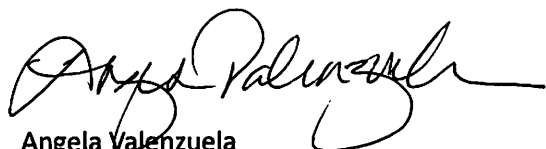
- Road emergencies such as flooding, car accidents, road closures, etc.
- Building Maintenance and Central Plant responds to calls at the Government Center, the Jail, Probation, Jail, A/C, building emergencies.
- Janitorial staff: Do you realize that many of the County's services would not be able to continue during Covid if they were not there to respond?
- Our Fleet Division keeps Sheriff and Roads running so they can respond.

These are all emergency safety responses! Our Blue Collar workers are some of the hardest working individuals and some of the lowest paid. Some opt out of the County health plan because they cannot afford it. Some are medi-cal eligible. What does that tell you? I respectfully request you recognize them as safety and extend the same bonuses to them.

Additionally, as a Kings County employee, please give the same incentive for those who have been long-standing, dedicated employees with several years of service. Why don't you give back to those who have been the backbone of this county with longevity pay? I have seen other government do this. We are worthy! We have a vested interest in this County and there are not many of us left anymore. Thank you for the 1.5% raise but giving bonuses to only safety employees (and especially to those who are just hired), feels like a slap in the face. Your Board should know the general consensus among employees.

Please recognize and reward us with longevity pay in the same amount. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please note: I will be in person to read this aloud (and to be on record) during unscheduled appearances at your next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Sincerely,



Angela Valenzuela
County of Kings Employee since 2007