

Board Members

Joe Neves, District 1
Richard Valle, District 2
Doug Verboon, District 3 - Chairman
Rusty Robinson, District 4 – Vice-Chairman
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, April 16, 2024
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.countyofkingsca.gov>

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

<https://countyofkings.webex.com/countyofkings/j.php?MTID=mcd4cc25cde10349e7fb39ea39704deeb>

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 <https://youtube.com/live/TTwBX07SJSA?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 those 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 Tyler Jones – Koinonia Church
 - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 - MEMBERS PRESENT: JOE NEVES, RICHARD VALLE, RUSTY ROBINSON, RICHARD FAGUNDES
 - MEMBERS ABSENT: DOUG VERBOON



Supervisor Robinson read a letter from Supervisor Verboon to the State Water Resources Control Board into the record.

II. UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

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

Lupe Villa, Kings County Registrar of Voters gave an update on the General Election for District 20 Congressional District and upcoming Presidential Election in November.

Marie Waite, Kings County Child Support Services Director wanted to recognize Kimberlee Eggert, Assistant Child Support Services Director for 23 years of service to Kings County and introduced Marie (Mary) Conley as the new Assistant Child Support Services Director to the Board.

Carolyn Leist, Kings County Human Resources Director provided an update on the Fire Department promotions and introduced the six new firefighters for the department.

Kyria Martinez, Kings County Administrative Officer introduced Vicki Cervantes as the new Kings County Library Director to the Board.

Tammy Blevins, Kings County resident stated that she has worked for the Kings County Fire Department and asked the Board to support of the Kings County Firefighters with a contract and adequate compensation for the dedicated people who work for the department.

Paris Skruggs, Kings County resident stated his concerns for how the Kings County Firefighters have been treated and stated that Corcoran firefighters are revered at their presence at events, and he is here to stand with the Kings County Firefighters for more staffing and adequate wages.

Haley Moreno, Kings County resident stated that her husband is an Engineer for Kings County Fire Department and the employees have been working without a contract for so long and the department is behind on equipment purchases and wage increases and asked the Board to find a way to move forward.

Alan Moreno, Kings County resident and Kings County Fire Department Engineer read a letter into the record from Alyssa Haley requesting wage increases and fairness for Kings County Firefighters.

Shawn Jansen, Kings County resident and Kings County Fire Department read a letter from his wife asking for appropriate compensation for employees of the Kings County Fire Department.

Doug Soper, retired Tulare County Firefighter, and former Kings County Firefighter stated that he left due better pay in Tulare County where his retirement is double what it would have been if he retired from Kings County and stated that the Kings County Firefighters deserve more money.

Mike Rodarmel, retired Kings County Firefighter asked for higher wages for Kings County Firefighters.

Logan Odneal, staff for Senator Padilla wished Supervisor Verboon good luck in speaking at the State Water Resources Control Board meeting today in Sacramento to request to not place the Tulare Lake Basin in a probation status.



Supervisor Valle welcomed the Kings County Firefighters and the public here today and stated that the Board has had to stay quiet due to the negotiations taking place and he understands both sides of the issue. He stated that this has gone on too long and stated that attorneys representing both sides in negotiations are not required and asked to have the negotiations to be on a more personal basis with two Board members, the Human Resources Director, and representatives of the Firefighters Association in a room to work out the issues. He stated that he has been here 16 years and has supported public safety and two years ago the Kings County Firefighters Association asked the voters to approve a ½ cent sales tax initiative to help with the very issues that are on the table today and they voted no but he stood up and supported that initiative. He stated that he will probably get in trouble for saying this today but he has wanted to let everyone know his thoughts.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Report out of Closed Session from the regular meeting for April 9, 2024.

REPORT OUT: Diane Freeman, County Counsel stated that the Board took no reportable action in closed session at their April 9, 2024 meeting.

B. Approval of the minutes from the regular meeting for April 9, 2024.

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

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Agricultural Department:

1. a. Consider approving the Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Food and Agriculture for the County's Seed Law Enforcement Program retroactively effective from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024;
- b. Authorize the Agricultural Commissioner to sign future invoices with the California Department of Food and Agriculture for reimbursement of costs associated with the County's Seed Law Enforcement Program retroactively effective from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. **[AGMT 24-041]**

B. Behavioral Health Department:

1. Consider authorizing the advanced step hire of Dustin Biel as a Clinical Program Manager at Salary Range 249.5, Step 5.
2. Consider authorizing the advanced step hire of Sandra Ruiz-Rivas as a Clinical Program Manager at Salary Range 249.5, Step 5.
3. Consider adopting a Resolution supporting and promoting the Kings County Sober Graduation Program. **[RESO 24-023]**

C. Child Support Services Department:

1. Consider authorizing the advanced step hire of Marie (Mary) Conley as the Assistant Director of Child Support Services at Salary Range 266.5, Step 4.

D. Human Services Agency:

1. Consider approving an Agreement with Kings Partnership for Prevention to perform administrative services and support for the Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council effective April 16, 2024 through April 15, 2027. **[AGMT 24-042]**

E. Probation Department:

1. Consider approving an Agreement with the Superior Court of California to continue providing pretrial services in Kings County effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. **[AGMT 24-043]**

F. Public Health Department:

1. a. Consider authorizing the acceptance of a \$5,000 sponsorship from CalViva Health for the Kings County Women, Infants and Children Program;
- b. Adopt the budget change. **(4/5 vote required)**



G. Public Works Department:

1. Consider approving the Notice of Completion for the Stratford Levee project to provide notice to interested parties that the work has been completed.
2. Consider approving the Notice of Completion for the Burris Park and Hickey Park Playground Shade Project to provide notice to interested parties that the work has been completed.

H. Sheriff's Office:

1. a. Consider approving the purchase of two pairs of AVS-9 Night Vision Goggles for the Sheriff's Office Air Support Unit;
b. Adopt the budget change. **(4/5 vote required)**
2. a. Consider approving the purchase of five rifles and five less lethal shotguns;
b. Adopt the budget change. **(4/5 vote required)**

I. Administration:

1. Consider appointing one new member to the CalViva/Tri-County Health Authority Commission.
2. Consider appointing one new member to the Kings County Agricultural Advisory Committee.

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

V.

REGULAR CALENDAR

A. Behavioral Health Department – Lisa Lewis/Christi Lupkes

1. Consider approving the participation Agreement with California Mental Health Services Authority for the Central Valley Suicide Prevention Hotline Program retroactively effective from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. **[AGMT 24-044]**

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

B. Public Works – Dominic Tyburski/Mitchel Cabrera

1. Consider approving an Agreement with Ceres Environmental Services, Incorporated for disaster debris removal services effective upon execution for a term of thirty-six months. **[AGMT 24-045]**

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

C. Administration – Kyria Martinez/Matthew Boyett

1. Consider authorizing the Chairman to sign letters of support for California Disaster Assistance Act funding to replace and repair damaged county roads due to the flooding events of 2023 to Senator Laphonza Butler, Senator Melissa Hurtado, Senator Alex Padilla, Representative David Valadao, and Assemblyman Devon Mathis.

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

2. a. Consider approving one of the following actions regarding the County's ballot for special benefit assessments levied by the Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency to support compliance efforts of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act;
 1. Vote "Yes", approving the proposed special benefit assessment, and authorize the County Administrative Officer to submit the applicable ballot on behalf of the County.
 2. Vote "No", rejecting the proposed special benefit assessment, and authorize the County Administrative Officer to submit the applicable ballot on behalf of the County.
 3. Take no action.



- b. Consider approving one of the following actions regarding the groundwater extraction fee proposed by the Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency to support dry well mitigation, recharge basin development, and subsidence mitigation as part of compliance efforts of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act;
 1. Take no action.
 2. Protest the proposed extraction fee and authorize the County Administrative Officer to submit the applicable protest form.

ACTION: APPROVED ITME 2A2 AND 2B2 AS PRESENTED (RV, JN, RF, RR-Aye, DV-Absent)

VI. STUDY SESSION

A. Administration – Kyria Martinez/Megan Vega

1. Receive an overview and update on the evaluation of the County’s indigent defense system.

The Board received an update, and no official action was taken.

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 Neves stated that he participated in the Kings County Health Equity Advisory Panel zoom meeting, attended the South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency meeting, attended the Kings County Health Equity Advisory Panel mixer event, announced softball for Lemoore High School, attended the Grizzly Baseball game representing “My job depends on Ag” event, participated in the presentation day event for regional 4-H groups held in Corcoran, attended the Kings County Health Equity Advisory Panel meeting and cooked for the Kings County Firefighter welcome potluck.

Supervisor Fagundes stated that he attended the Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging meeting and cooked for the Kings County Firefighter welcome potluck.

Supervisor Robinson stated that he attended the Armona Community Services District meeting, met with Nate Ferrier from the Kings County Sheriff’s Office, met with staff from the Hanford Sentinel to discuss topics related to the community of Armona and attended a meeting with Kings County Sheriff’s Office staff to discuss concerns within their department.

- ◆ **Board Correspondence: Kyria Martinez stated that the Board received a report from the California Highway Patrol dated April 5, 2024 regarding a CHP HazMat Report relating to an incident on Kansas and 11th Avenue. The Board received a Community Update from DTSC regarding a Chemical Waste Management Kettleman Hills Facility Public Notice for Proposed Renewal of Hazardous Waste Facility Permit.**
- ◆ **Upcoming Events: Kyria Martinez stated that Kings County Behavioral Health will host its Family Member Support Group today on April 16, 2024 from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Kings Building located on our campus. Kings County District Attorney’s Office Victim Witness Assistance Program will host its annual quilt unveiling in support of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week next week on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 from 6:0 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Koinonia Church Learning Center Auditorium in Hanford. Kings County Behavioral Health will host its Veteran’s Support Group next week on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Hanford. Kings County Public Health will host the Kings County Employee Blood Drive on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at the Parking lot closest to the old Sheriff’s Office parking across the grand jury parking lot Kings County Library will host its Spring Book Sale on Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Hanford Branch Library.**



- ◆ Information on Future Agenda Items: **Kyria Martinez stated that the following items would be on a future agenda: Administration - Health Insurance Renewal for FY 24-25; Behavioral Health - Advocates for Human Potential Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program Agreement and Department of Health Care Services Amendment and Resolution; District Attorney’s Office - Proclaiming April 21-27, 2024 Kings County Crime Victim’s Rights Week; Department of Finance - Property Tax Advance Loan Request by South Fork Kings Ground Water Sustainability Agency; Public Health Department - Senate Bill 1383 Local Assistance Grant Budget Change and Dietetic Internship Agreement with University of Southern California – Leonard Davis School of Gerontology.**

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

- ◆ **Conference with Real Property Negotiators: (1 Case) [Govt. Code Section 54956.8]**
- ◆ **Property: 1426 South Drive, Hanford, CA 93230**
Agency Negotiator: Kyria Martinez
Negotiation Parties: Lacey Campus Partners, II LLP
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment
- ◆ **Conference with Labor Negotiator: [Govt. Code Section 54957.6]**
Negotiators: Kyria Martinez, Carolyn Leist, Che Johnson of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
 - General Unit - CLOCEA
 - Supervisor’s Unit - CLOCEA
 - Blue Collar - SEIU
 - Detention Deputy’s Association
 - Firefighter’s Association
 - Deputy Sheriff’s Association
 - Probation Officer’s Association
 - Prosecutor’s Association
 - Unrepresented Management

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Multi Purpose Room, entrance is located across the hall from Board Chambers.

X. 11:00 AM CALIFORNIA PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

April 23	9:00 AM	Regular Meeting
April 30	9:00 AM	Regular Meeting
May 7	-	Regular Meeting Canceled due to Kings County Employee Appreciation Event
May 14	9:00 AM	Regular Meeting
May 21	9:00 AM	Regular Meeting

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Board of Supervisors office at (559) 852-2362 by 9:00 a.m. on the Monday prior to this meeting.

Agenda backup information and any public records provided to the Board after the posting of the agenda for this meeting will be available for public review within 24 hours of receipt of said documents, at the Kings County Board of Supervisors office, located at 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230 or at

<https://www.countyofkingsca.gov/departments/board-of-supervisors/calendar-agenda-and-action-summary>

Doug & Julie Freitas

10888 Highway 41

Lemoore, CA 93245

April 15, 2024

Joe Neves

Richard Valle

Doug Verboon

Rusty Robinson

Richard Fagudes

This letter is to urge all of you to vote NO on the ballot and to PROTEST THE EXTRACTION FEE!! This does not need to be voted on at this time. Both Doug and I are going to the State Water Board Meeting tomorrow at 9:30am. I truly think we can make this work better for the Farmer and everyone involved! The Farmers are paying for all these "fees" proposed by the GSA's. WE are not a cash cow!! Please wait to vote on this!! At least till after the State Water Board meeting tomorrow.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Freitas". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Doug Freitas

Doug & Julie Freitas

10888 Highway 41

Lemoore, CA 93245

April 15, 2024

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Sincerely,



Julie Freitas

From: [Ivette Chaidez Villarreal](#)
To: [BOS Questions](#)
Subject: Public Comment re: KCFD 4/16/24
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 10:40:00 PM

Good morning Catherine and Diane,

I hope you're both doing well. Please see my public comment for today's BOS meeting below.

Good morning Chairman and members of the board,

Over the last year, I have followed the Kings County Firefighters and their fight for a fair contract. Last week I sat here and listened to stories from some of them, their spouses, and even one of the 20+ firefighters we lost to another department. Our firefighters put their lives on the line to protect our community, facing dangers that most of us can only imagine. However, these dedicated individuals are currently facing the additional challenge of being understaffed, which significantly compounds the risks they already face. I am here today to urge you to grant the Kings County Fire Department a fair contract as soon as possible.

As you know, firefighting is an inherently perilous job. From battling raging fires, rescuing individuals trapped in burning buildings, and often being the first on-scene of horrific crash sites, firefighters confront life-threatening situations regularly. When they are understaffed, their ability to effectively respond to emergencies is severely compromised. Response times especially matter for communities that are further out like Stratford, Avenal, and Kettleman City. Longer response times can make the critical difference between preventing total property losses and, tragically, even loss of life; a point that is critical to emphasize when our county only has 1 hospital.

It is imperative that our firefighters have the resources and support they need to carry out their duties safely and effectively. This includes fair compensation and adequate staffing levels to ensure prompt emergency response times. By providing the Kings County Fire Department with a fair contract, you not only demonstrate your appreciation for their invaluable service but also safeguard the well-being of our entire community.

I respectfully urge you to hear the pleas of my fellow community members and prioritize the safety and security of Kings County residents by promptly addressing the needs of our firefighters.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Ivette Chaidez Villarreal

Civic Engagement Program Director



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