

SPECIAL MEETING ACTION SUMMARY
JOINT MEETING OF THE
MID-KINGS RIVER GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY,
HANFORD CITY COUNCIL,
KINGS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Date: Monday, July 29, 2024
Time: 7:00 p.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>

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

<https://countyofkings.webex.com/countyofkings/j.php?MTID=m663d9c6a2b35be4472c41aab6f6b140c>

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 6:55 p.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/UPk34qme7PM?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 4:00 p.m. on the morning of the noticed meeting to be included in the record, those comments received after 4:00 p.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. 7:00 PM **CALL TO ORDER**
ROLL CALL – Clerk of the Board
MID-KINGS RIVER GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT:
Barry McCutcheon, Ernest Taylor, Mark Kairis
HANFORD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
Martin Devine, Lou Martinez, Mark Kairis, Travis Paden
KINGS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEMBERS PRESENT:
Joe Neves, Richard Valle, Doug Verboon, Rusty Robinson, Richard Fagundes
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. **UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES**

*Any person may directly address the Board at this time concerning any item that has been described in the notice for the meeting. **Two (2) minutes** are allowed for each item.*

Mike LaSalle, Kings County resident stated that he is confused as to who he is addressing at this meeting and that he is a farmer and a pumper. He is here to raise concerns for this complicated topic and gave an overview of the events that have happened since 2019 with respect to working toward developing the Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Act Plan and his disappointment for the outgoing Board and how they handled things and that now government employees and bureaucrats are handling it.

Kimber Regan, Kings County resident stated her concerns for the State allowing water to be stolen from farmers and homeowners in Kings County and the need for infrastructure for water storage and keep the water here, we need to fight to protect everyone's water rights.

III. **MID-KINGS RIVER GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY:**

A. Approval of the minutes from the regular meeting for November 14, 2023.

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

C. Approval of the minutes from the special meeting for April 23, 2024.

ACTION: APPROVED THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED (ET, MK, BM-Aye)

D. Consider accepting the resignation of General Counsel Ray Carlson.

E. Consider accepting the resignation of General Manager Dennis Mills.

ACTION: ACCEPTED RESIGNATIONS AS PRESENTED (MK, ET, BM-Aye)

F. Consider approving the Amended and Restated Agreement for the Governance of the Joint Powers Authority known as the Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority.

ACTION: APPROVED AS PRESENTED (MK, ET, BM-Aye)

IV. **HANFORD CITY COUNCIL:**

A. Consider approving the Amended and Restated Agreement for the Governance of the Joint Powers Authority known as the Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority.

ACTION: APPROVED AS PRESENTED (MD, LM, MK, TP-Aye)

B. Consider appointing a City Council member to sit as a voting member on the Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority.

ACTION: APPROVED APPOINTMENT OF MARK KAIRIS (LM, MD, MK, TP-Aye)

V. **KINGS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

A. Consider approving the Amended and Restated Agreement for the Governance of the Joint Powers Authority known as the Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority. **[Agmt. # 24-151]**

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

VI.

MID-KINGS RIVER GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY:

- A. Consider appointing a General Manager, Chuck Kinney.
ACTION: APPROVED APPOINTMENT OF CHUCK KINNEY AS GENERAL MANAGER (RF, JN, RV, RR, MK, DV- Aye)
- B. Consider appointing a General Counsel, Diane Freeman.
ACTION: APPROVED APPOINTMENT OF DIANE FREEMAN AS GENERAL COUNSEL (RF, JN, RV, RR, MK, DV- Aye)

Supervisor Verboon stated that the County is trying to keep control of the water in the Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency local and hopes that the Board and stakeholders can work together to keep the water in Kings County. He asked the Board members to set a date for the next meeting and after a discussion, the Board by consensus determined that the next Special Meeting of the Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. here in the Board Chambers.

Supervisor Valle introduced himself to the audience and what portions of Kings County are in District 2, which he represents and stated that the Board is looking forward to working with stakeholders to keep the water in Kings County.

Supervisor Robinson stated that he is here to listen to the stakeholders and the people of Kings County and hopes for open communication on both sides.

REOPENED TIME FOR UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

*Supervisor Verboon reopened time for unscheduled appearances at the end of the meeting. Any person may directly address the Board at this time concerning any item that has been described in the notice for the meeting. **Two (2) minutes** are allowed for each item.*

Dusty Ference, spoke and submitted a letter on behalf of the Kings County Farm Bureau requesting the Board to consider appointing water users as directors, to create a stakeholder advisory committee, concerns for fair decision making during meetings without creating tie votes and a possible conflict of interest with the appointment of the General Manager, Chuck Kinney who is also the Community Development Agency Director.

Mike LaSalle, Kings County resident stated that he has concerns that there are legal and political issues with the meeting tonight and that he doesn't trust the Board.

Supervisor Valle stated his concerns about possible threats towards the Board during the meeting and disruptions that cause a negative tone and looks forward to positive meetings to work through the processes.

Supervisor Verboon stated that the Board is here to work with the stakeholders and fight for the community.

VII.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

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>