

# KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION MINUTES

**DISTRICT 1**  
John Howe

**DISTRICT 2**  
Carlo Wilcox

**DISTRICT 3**  
Brent Graham

**DISTRICT 4**  
Craig Pedersen

**DISTRICT 5**  
Don Mills

**MEMBER AT LARGE**  
Brian Ehlers

**COMMUNITY SERVICE  
REPRESENTATIVE**  
Harold Reed

**CITY REPRESENTATIVE**  
John Murray

**CITY REPRESENTATIVE**  
David Ayers

**KINGS COUNTY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY STAFF:** Bill Zumwalt (559)582-3211 ext 2686 Marcum Caldwell (559)  
582-3211 ext. 2648

**CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Kings County Water Commission (KCWC) was called to order by Chairman Don Mills at 7:00 p.m., on August 24, 2009. The KCWC meeting was held in the Administrative Multi-Purpose Room, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California.

Roll call of members was conducted by Mr. Gatzka, and a quorum of appointed Committee members was in attendance.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Howe, Carlo Wilcox, Don Mills, David Ayers,  
Harold Reed, John Murray

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Brian Ehlers, Brent Graham, Craig Pedersen

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Greg Gatzka, Pete Moock, Marcum Caldwell, Terri  
Yarbrough

**VISITORS PRESENT:**

Jeff Stivers, Mark Gilkey, Larry Spikes, Bob Westfall,  
Brad Johns, Barry McCutcheon, Brian Skaggs, Jay  
Salyer, Roger Reynolds

**UNSCHEDULED COMMENTS:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made and seconded (Ayers/Howe) to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2009 meeting. Motion carried unanimously with Murray abstaining and Ehlers, Graham and Pedersen absent.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** CSAC and Regional Council of Rural Counties letter of support for Clean Water Restoration Act of 2009, and CA Regional Water Quality Control Board Notice of Public Workshop to Protect Groundwater

Pete Moock stated this item was placed on the agenda for informational purposes only. Larry Spikes stated that the Board of Supervisors is not planning to take any action related to this..

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Bureau of Reclamation – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Projects List

Chairman Mills reported that 13 grants were awarded to Western States, 11 of which were in California. Mills stated all but one of these grants will be used for drilling new wells.

### B. Recent State Water Project transfers out of Kings County (Dudley Ridge Water District)

Mr. Wilcox removed himself from the discussion due to a conflict of interest. Chairman Mills summarized the Dudley Ridge Water District Water Transfer project. Members of the public expressed concerns over water issues including the environmental constraints that prevent new water projects from being developed and the economic characteristics of farm water and urban water. Pete Moock from County Counsel questioned why the Mojave Water Agency was named the lead environmental agency for the project when the environmental impacts will take place in the Dudley Ridge Water District. Mr. Moock added that it is a common practice among landowner voting districts to allow the type of policy that the Dudley Ridge Water District adopted in April 2009 which enabled this type of water transfer. Chairman Mills stated that this water transfer does not set a new precedent and we have to be careful what we call our water as this water is from the State Water Project which originates from Northern California. Mr. Mills continued by saying the Kings County Board of Supervisors want to build awareness of water issues but aren't looking for any recommendations at this time. Mr. Ayers stated that if anyone wanted to challenge the Dudley Ridge Water District Water Transfer project, it would need to be done by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Moock stated that Kings County is in a state of overdraft by at least 1.5 million acre feet per year and this situation needs to be addressed by all public agencies in Kings County. Mr. Mills concluded the discussion by saying that this Dudley Ridge Water Transfer could lead to no net loss of groundwater water to Kings County but that's assuming everyone keeps their word. Mr. Wilcox participated in the remainder of Water Commission activities.

### C. Kettleman City water treatment plant

Brian Skaggs with Summers Engineering provided an overview of a proposed site plan for a water treatment plant to treat water from the California aqueduct for Kettleman City. He reported that with the increasingly stringent water standards it was found that the groundwater contains arsenic and naturally occurring benzene.

Mr. Skaggs stated that a County Redevelopment Agency has been formed in order to help fund the loan for the project. Supervisor Valle is also looking for additional funding for the project. Mr. Skaggs reported that there is a moratorium on building in Kettleman City due to the lack of water.

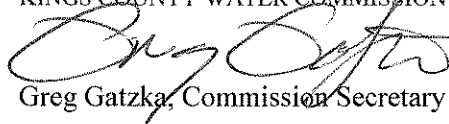
## MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Staff Comments – None
- B. Member Comments – None

## ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled meeting of the Water Commission is a special meeting because of a conflict with a holiday week and scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION

  
Greg Gatzka, Commission Secretary