

KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION MINUTES

DISTRICT 1
John Howe

DISTRICT 2
Carlo Wilcox

DISTRICT 3
Brent Graham

DISTRICT 4
Vacant

DISTRICT 5
Don Mills

MEMBER AT LARGE
Brian Ehlers

**COMMUNITY SERVICE
REPRESENTATIVE**
Mike Watson

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 meeting of the Kings County Water Commission (KCWC) was called to order by Bill Zumwalt at 7:00 p.m., on February 23, 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. Zumwalt, and a quorum of appointed Committee members was in attendance. Mr. Carlo Wilcox nominated Don Mills for President pro tem for this meeting. A motion was made and seconded (Howe/Ehlers) to close the nominations and accept the nomination. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Howe, Carlo Wilcox, Don Mills, Brian Ehlers,
David Ayers

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brent Graham, Mike Watson, John Murray

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Zumwalt, Johanna Hartley, Greg Gatzka, Marcum
Caldwell, Terri Yarbrough

VISITORS PRESENT:

Larry Spikes, Jay Salyer, Tim Niswander, Scott Sills,
David Cone, Andrew Mattos

UNSCHEDULED COMMENTS:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made and seconded (Ehlers/Wilcox) to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2008 meeting. Motion carried unanimously with Ayers abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Groundwater Management Principles were discussed and Commission members expressed support for the principles because the principles advocated for local control of groundwater. The Commission also received correspondence from the California Water Program through the Kings County Library. The Commission was not interested in supporting the California Water Program since there are plenty of other education programs that are superior.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Commission discussion and possible adoption of Kings County Water Commission By-Laws.**
County Counsel requested that this item be removed and rescheduled in order to provide County Counsel time to review the By-Laws.
- B. Water Transfers Out of or from County of Kings.** There was discussion regarding whether there should be a policy regarding transferring water outside of Kings County. There was a concern that water didn't leave the County on a permanent basis and that groundwater within Kings County could be over drafted for use outside of the County. The consensus of the committee was that there is enough regulation to ensure that the water stays within the County and there is no need to do anything more. Commission members suggested that it may be beneficial for an entity to maintain a list of interested parties to notify before water is permanently transferred out of the County. Commission members reminded attendees of the meeting that this item is informational only and Commission members indicated that there is no immediate need for further consideration of implementing a "right of first refusal" or related policies or bureaucracy to an already highly regulated situation.
- C. Kettleman City Water.** Don Mills reported that five agencies gave up some of their share of water to Kettleman City. It was noted that since control of this water had not been relinquished it was available for the Community of Kettleman City.
- D. Update of the Kings County General Plan.** Greg Gatzka gave an overview of the process and reported that the General Plan update is scheduled to be presented to the Planning Commission in May of 2009. Mr. Gatzka also noted that the Resource Conservation Element is coming up for review by the General Plan Advisory Committee and many of the policies in the Resource Conservation Element pertain to water issues. Mr. Gatzka suggested that Commission members review the policies by either requesting the document for review or by attending the upcoming General Plan Advisory Committee meetings during the review of the Resource Conservation Element.
- E. Water Commission becoming an "Interested Party" to the Upper Kings Basin Water Forum.** Larry Spikes stated that the Board of Supervisors voted to be an "interested party" rather than a voting member because voting members must contribute to the dues formula. The Commissioners discussed whether the Water Commission should be an interested party in addition to the County.

A motion was made and seconded (Howe/Ehlers) to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Kings County be an interested party to the Upper Kings Basin Water Forum with the intent of the Water Commission serving as the representative.

MISCELLANEOUS

- A. STAFF COMMENTS:** Mr. Zumwalt asked Commission members to provide a mailing address for meeting packets if it is not currently being sent to the desired location. Mr. Zumwalt also informed the Commissioners that the packet will be available on the web.
- B. MEMBER COMMENTS:** None

ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled meeting of the Water Commission is a special meeting scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION



Greg Gatzka, Acting Commission Secretary

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