

KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION MINUTES

DISTRICT 1
John Howe

DISTRICT 2
Mark Gilkey - Chair

DISTRICT 3
Jim Verboon

DISTRICT 4
Vacant

DISTRICT 5
Don Mills

MEMBER AT LARGE
Brian Ehlers – Vice Chair

**SPECIAL DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE**
Harold Reed

CITY REPRESENTATIVE
Sid Palmerin

CITY REPRESENTATIVE
Harlin Casida

KINGS COUNTY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY STAFF: Greg Gatzka (559) 852-2682 Chuck Kinney (559) 852-2674

CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of the Kings County Water Commission (KCWC) was called to order by Chairman Gilkey at 5:01 p.m., on February 22, 2016. The KCWC meeting was held in the Ag Commissioner's Multi-Purpose Room, 680 N. Campus Drive, Hanford, California.

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Howe, Don Mills, Mark Gilkey, Jim Verboon,
Sid Palmerin, Brian Ehlers, Laura Brown

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Harlin Casida, Harold Reed

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Gatzka - Director, Erik Kaeding –County
Counsel, Chuck Kinney – Deputy Director -
Planning, Terri Yarbrough – Executive Secretary,
Pam Contreras - Planner

VISITORS PRESENT:

Joe Neves, Mike Nordstrom, Dale Melville, Scott
Sills, Carolyn Pande, Lou Camara, Steve Jackson,
Erik Osterling

UNSCHEDULED COMMENTS: None

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

A motion was made and seconded (Ehlers/Verboon) to nominate Don Mills for Chairperson and close the nominations. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made and seconded (Verboon/Howe) to nominate Brian Ehlers for Vice Chairman and close the nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded (Howe/Gilkey) to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2015 meeting. Motion carried unanimously with Casida and Reed absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation and Activities:

- 1. Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program Update** - Mr. Gatzka reported that it looks like there is a good chance that the grant project will be funded. The grant is a \$500,000

grant and there are no matching funds required since Kings County is a disadvantaged community. The grant should be awarded by the end of the month. Commissioner Howe asked if the state would open it back up if the funds aren't all awarded. Mr. Dennis Mills said strings would be attached to the remaining funds and it will need to be tied to a well ordinance or something similar.

2. **Groundwater Sustainability Agency Progress Update** – Mr. Osterling provided an updated on the progress toward development of the groundwater sustainability agencies. He reported on the Upper Tulare Lake which includes Lemoore and Stratford. They have developed an MOU and the group has been meeting monthly to explore different governance options. Several outreach events have been held and they have met with the Farm Bureau, City of Lemoore and others. Mr. Osterling also reported that Westland Water was taking the lead on the Westside sub-basins. Consolidated Irrigation is planning to be their own GSA. Joint Powers Agreements are being established as well as MOU's for some areas. Mr. Mills asked Mr. Norstrom about water transfer policies. Mr. Nordstrom reported that AQUA has been involved in drafting a water transfer policy of their own but that the Levine bill will most likely to be the one to go through. All water transfers would have to be reported to a state clearing house. There would also be a public water exchange and a fee for making a transfer. Mr. Nordstrom also reported on the CV salts and expressed concern that anyone with more than ten acres will be required to clean up all the water. Mr. Dennis Mills asked about planned guidelines from SGMA. Mr. Dennis Mills stated that DWR has published the draft regulations and will be taking comments until March 25, 2016 and hope to have California Water Commission approval by this spring. Mr. Dennis Mills also gave an overview of the plan contents and requirements. The plan is required to be in place by January 31, 2020 and will have twenty years to implement the plan, and the plan must work for ten years. It is required that the plan be updated every five years. Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Dennis Mills if there was any mention of outreach requiring documentation and how the GSAs are outreaching to water users. Mr. Mills stated the agencies are being developed at this point and not the plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

MISCELLANEOUS

- A. **Future Agenda Items** – Mr. Gilkey reported that the growth of state water charges may be back to the county to consider recommendation that the Board of Supervisors sign a letter of support. If there is not enough time it may need to go directly to the Board of Supervisors.
- B. **Staff Comments** – Mr. Kinney provided an overview of SB 1317 regarding basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft as determined by the Department of Water Resources. The bill would require a city or county overlying a basin designated as a high- or medium-priority basin to establish a process for the issuance of conditional use permits for the development of a groundwater extraction facility. A basin designated in Bulletin 118 as a basin subject to critical conditions of overdraft and a residence with less than 2.5 acre feet per year would not require a conditional use permit. The Commission asked to place this as a future agenda item.
- B. **Member Comments** – None
- C. **Correspondence** – None

ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Water Commission is Monday, May 23, 2016. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm.

Respectfully submitted
KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION


Greg Gatzka, Secretary

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