

# 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 Mills at 5:00 p.m., on May 23, 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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Harlin Casida, Harold Reed, Laura Brown

**STAFF PRESENT:** Greg Gatzka - Director, Erik Kaeding –County Counsel, Chuck Kinney – Deputy Director - Planning, Terri Yarbrough – Executive Secretary, Pam Contreras – Planner, Dan Kassik - Planner

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Joe Neves

**UNSCHEDULED COMMENTS:** None

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded (Ehlers/Palmerin) to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2016 meeting with a correction to the spelling of ACWA. Motion carried unanimously with Casida, Reed and Brown absent.

## OLD BUSINESS:

### A. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation and Activities:

- 1. Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program Update** - Mr. Kassik provided an update on the progress of the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant. He stated the project was exempt from CEQA and that the grant agreement should be received by the first part of June from DWR. Mr. Kassik reported that permission has been given to proceed with grant activities prior to signing the agreement. The RFP will go out this week and will have a 45 day timeframe for proposal submittal. Commissioner Gilkey asked who was on the review team. Mr. Kassik provided a list. Commissioner Verboon asked if the grant was to build a model to show the interactions between the sub basins. Mr. Kassik responded that it was to establish a base line.

2. **Groundwater Sustainability Agency Progress Update** – Mr. Dennis Mill provided an update on the progress toward development of the groundwater sustainability agencies. He reported that DWR has made progress on groundwater sustainability plan regulations. The California Water commission has adopted regulations which are available on the internet. He reported that most everyone is targeting for the end of the year to submit their materials to the Department of Water Resources. The deadline is June of 2017 for GSA submittals. Mr. Dennis Mills also provided an update on the groups that are forming GSAs. He reported that white areas are still an issue and are being worked through. Recently things have been shifting towards funding and how the agencies can generate revenue streams to take on the development of the GSA's. Commissioner Mills asked if it was Kings County's intention to be a willing participant to cover white areas. Ms. Colleen Carlson stated the county is working with the different groups to have them take that on so that the county doesn't have to be a part of several GSA's. Commissioner Verboon asked if DWR and the Water Commission have settled on their lines and if the water commission could come back with an appeal and have more input. Mr. Dennis Mills said he didn't see them re-opening it and if they did they would have to come back with revisions. Commissioner Verboon also asked if anyone put together what the assessment per acre would be. Mr. Dennis Mills stated they really don't know because they don't know how many entities there are.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Proposed Sites Reservoir Project** – Chairman Gilkey provided an update on the proposed Sites Reservoir Project. He stated a Joint Powers Agreement had been signed and there was a window of opportunity to participate for those south of the Delta. The project will have the ability to store 1.3 to 1.8 million acre feet and has an estimated cost of three to four billion dollars. It is anticipated that the public portion will be funded by Proposition 1. The challenge will be getting the water through the Delta. He reported the JPA is looking for participants and the buy in cost is a max of \$60 per acre foot to get through phase I. The onboarding agreement will be out soon for those who want to sign on.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. **Future Agenda Items** – The Commission requested to keep the old business agenda items on the agenda.
- B. **Staff Comments** – None
- B. **Member Comments** – None
- C. **Correspondence** – None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Water Commission is Monday, August 22, 2016. The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION



Greg Gatzka, Secretary