

KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION MINUTES

DISTRICT 1
John Howe

DISTRICT 2
Mark Gilkey - Chair

DISTRICT 3
Jim Verboon

DISTRICT 4
Craig Pedersen

DISTRICT 5
Don Mills

MEMBER AT LARGE
Brian Ehlers – Vice Chair

**SPECIAL DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE**
Harold Reed

CITY REPRESENTATIVE
John Gordon

CITY REPRESENTATIVE
Harlin Casida

KINGS COUNTY

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

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Kings County Water Commission (KCWC) was called to order by Chairman Gilkey at 5:00 p.m., on August 26, 2013. The KCWC meeting was held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Administration Building (Bldg. No. 1), 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California.

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Mills, Brian Ehlers, Mark Gilkey, John Gordon, Jim Verboon, Harlin Casida, John Howe

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Craig Pedersen, Harold Reed

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Gatzka - Director, Erik Kaeding – Deputy County Counsel, Chuck Kinney – Deputy Director - Planning, Terri Yarbrough – Executive Secretary

VISITORS PRESENT: Joe Neves, Mike Nordstrom, Courtney Espinoza, David Orth, Mario Santoya, Sharon Gordon, Dale Melville, Larry Spikes, David Kahn, Richard Valle

UNSCHEDULED COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made and seconded (Gordon/Mills) to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2013 meeting. Motion carried unanimously with Pedersen and Reed absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program – David Orth

Mr. David Orth provided an update on the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Development Schedule for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. He also provided updates on the membership, groundwater assessment report, monitoring program and cost to members. He reported that the South Valley is pursuing the third party application and that it is unclear how the coordination will take place among Third Parties in South San Joaquin Valley Water Quality

Coalition. The cost to members could change depending on how many growers sign up. He also reported that the State Water Resources Control Board will be adding four new employees who will be concentrating on monitoring in the valley for compliance.

B. Central Valley Salinity Alternative for Long-Term Sustainability (“CV Salts”) David Orth

Mr. Orth provided an update on the status for the Central Valley Salinity Alternative for Long-Term Sustainability (CV Salts). He stated that this is stake holder driven and monthly meetings have been held to discuss and study alternatives to sustain farming and community growth in the Central Valley. A regional management approach is being taken in hopes of finding some of the areas of vulnerability. Commissioner Verboon asked if sub regions would be looked at. Mr. Orth stated they were open and willing and that these studies will help. Environmental groups are concerned that this is a permit to pollute. The objective is to improve water quality without over regulating.

C. Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan – David Orth

Mr. Orth provided an update on the status of the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and gave an overview on projects. He reported that fifty agencies are now participating as members or interested parties.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Tulare Lake Bed Municipal and Domestic Supply Beneficial Use (MUN) De-Designation –

Michael Nordstrom – Mr. Nordstrom provided an update on the efforts to remove the MUN designation from the shallow groundwater through the Central Valley Salinity Coalition. Commissioner Gordon asked if these studies will open the door for more ammunition for additional regulation down the road. Mr. Nordstrom stated that this should be a benefit to this area rather than creating more regulation. Mr. Dale Melville asked to have “up-gradient and further” in the second paragraph to be deleted from the draft letter.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon/Mills) to recommend that the Board of Supervisors send the proposed letter of support, with changes recommended by Mr. Melville, proposing municipal delisting of the Tulare Lake Bed to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board as amended. Motion carried unanimously with Pedersen and Reed absent.

B. Draft Water Bond Framework

Mr. Mario Santoya provided an overview of the Water Bond history. He reported that the legislature is working to lower the cost of the bond and will remove funding for storage, Delta sustainability and funds for regional projects. A draft resolution was presented that would be brought before the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Santoya asked that the Commission recommend to the BOS that they approve this resolution which reaffirms previous efforts to increase supply storage, reliability and quality of water in California and specifically supports the Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Act of 2010.

It was recommended that the verbiage be changed from “regional infrastructure improvements and development” to “integrated regional water quality management” in item 4.

A motion was made and seconded (Mill/Ehlers) to recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the resolution as amended. Motion carried unanimously with Pedersen and Reed absent.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Staff Comments – None

B. Member Comments – None

- C. **Correspondence** – Information on a free training session for Pre-Planning and Legal Entity Formation Assistance Grant Program was provided.

ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Water Commission is Monday, November 25, 2013 at 5:00 pm at the Ag Commissioners multi purpose room. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted

KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION



Greg Gatzka, Secretary

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