

# 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 July 20, 2015. 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,  
Harlin Casida, Brian Ehlers, Laura Brown

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sid Palmerin, Harold Reed

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:**

Joe Neves, Chantal Quellet, Kristi Lee, Hill Fuller,  
Carolyn Pande, Lou Camara, Gene Kilgore, Eric  
Osterling, Scott Sills, Kathy Clendaniel, Colleen  
Carlson, Dennis Mills, Larry Spikes, Ceil Howe

**UNSCHEDULED COMMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:.**

Chairman Gilkey announced that the minutes of the February 23, 2015 meeting stand approved as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Gilkey asked to change the order of the agenda if there were no objections. Seeing no objections the order of the agenda was changed.

**A. 2016 State Water Project Charges** Chantal Quellet provided background on the State Water Project charges and compared 2007 through 2016. She also reviewed the 2016 statement of charges. She reported the cost increased from 2015 by 15% and the conservation costs have almost tripled between 2007 and 2016. Jim Verboon asked what the justification was for the conservation cost increase. Chantal addressed the question. Chairman Gilkey reported that Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage is drafting a letter expressing concern for the increasing costs and concerns for reduced liability and asked if the Water Commission would be interested in recommending that the Board of Supervisors draft a response letter.

A motion was made and seconded (Mills/Howe) to recommend that the Board of Supervisors issue a letter expressing concern over the increasing costs of the State Water Project and to reduce liability. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Update on the creation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies – Dennis Mills, KCWD**

Mr. Dennis Mills announced that Dave Orth will be leaving KRCD and Erik Osterling from KRCD will continue to cover these activities. Dennis provided an overview of what is being done in different areas to form GSAs in our basin. He reported that the Alta Irrigation District was pursuing special act legislation to develop a GSA but the bill was pulled due to resistance among some of the parties in the group. He stated it will become a two year bill in order to allow time for the parties to resolve the resistance. Mr. Mills also reported that Department of Water Resources released requirements on sub-basin boundary areas. The boundaries were originally created for water management and don't follow parcels which will require that boundary lines be adjusted. Laura Brown asked what kind of outreach was being done on the basin boundaries. Mr. Mills stated applications are due in 2016 and that KRCD has been mapping some of the sub basin boundaries in the Kings and Tulare basins. The outreach has been more about gathering information rather than planning to submit an application. Mr. John Zumwalt asked where the incorporated Kings County Cities fit in. Mr. Mills stated there have been some preliminary conversations.

**C. Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – Eric Osterling, KRCD**

Mr. Eric Osterling reported DWR issued their draft regulations for boundaries last week and DWR also held a webinar on July 21, 2015 to address the next steps which is the plan development of the regulations. The implementation of the Act has been divided into ten components, and to date only three have been published. The deadline for comments on the draft regulations are due September 4, 2015. Mr. Verboon asked if there will be individual districts in the lower parts of the county with individual MOU's. Mr. Osterling stated that one of the papers released by DWR addresses coordination. Chairman Gilkey reported that Groundwater Sustainability Plan guidelines are due for release the middle of next year, and Erik Kaeding stated the regulations will be coming out then.

**D. Discussion concerning a Joint Powers Authority to identify and pursue funding for new water facilities and projects that improve and insure water supply availability, reliability and sustainability – Larry Spikes, KC Admin**

Mr. Spikes reported the Board of Supervisors had received a proposed resolution concerning a Joint Powers Authority to identify and pursue funding for new water facilities and projects that improve water supply availability, reliability and sustainability. The Board of Supervisors has asked for input from the Water Commission. Fresno County has expressed interest in taking the lead for the application requisition funding. Mr. Ehlers stated there is a lot work to be done in order to be competitive and suggested having a JPA with the power to hire consultants. Colleen Carlson said things need to move fairly quickly in order to get everything developed, and asked for the help of the Water Commission.

**E. Groundwater and Water Related Legislation**

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Colleen Carlson stated that the regulations will be coming out on boundary basins but there was not much more to report at this time.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. **Future Agenda Items** – It was proposed that the August meeting be cancelled and call a special meeting at a later date if needed. Potential items for the next meeting are the California Water Fix and sustainable groundwater management plan.
- B. **Staff Comments** – None
- B. **Member Comments** – none
- C. **Correspondence** – None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Water Commission is Monday, November 23, 2015. The meeting was adjourned at 5:51pm.

Respectfully submitted  
**KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION**

  
Greg Gatzka, Secretary

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