

# 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 meeting of the Kings County Water Commission (KCWC) was called to order by Chairman Gilkey at 5:00 p.m., on May 19, 2014. The KCWC meeting was held in the Multi-Purpose Room of 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:**

Don Mills, Brian Ehlers, Mark Gilkey, Craig Pedersen, John Gordon, John Howe, Harlin Casida, Jim Verboon

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Harold Reed

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:**

Doug Verboon, Joe Neves, Steve Stadler, Jay Salyer, Dave Orth, David Kahn, Lou Camara, Scott Sills, Mike Nordstrom, Roger Reynolds, Alix Fowler, Alvaro Preciado, Diane Friend, Jim Gregory

**UNSCHEDULED COMMENTS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Central Valley Salts Update – Michael Nordstrom**

Mr. Nordstrom provided an update on the Central Valley Salts. He reported that the main focus now is how to take care of the disadvantaged communities with higher nitrate levels. He reported that discussions are taking place to determine whether the impact should be measured at the root zone or at the tap. Guiding policy decisions should be available in three to four months. They are also working on delisting surface water and should see something in about six months. He also reported that the 2016 Basin Plan Amendment is to be updated every five years but it has been 20 years since it has been updated. Chairman Gilkey asked that the County continue to be informed and be advised if any comments are needed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Groundwater Export Discussion – Jim Verboon**

Commissioner Verboon expressed concern that with so many wells going dry there is nothing in place to limit the pumping of water to prevent neighboring parcels from being adversely affected. He suggested restricting usage and asked for discussion on how to deal with these situations. Commissioner Pedersen asked what authority the county has to restrict water usage. Mr. Erik Kaeding stated that the state has inherent power to regulate water usage, but in the absence of regulation people can do what they want. The State still has the power to regulate, which they have delegated their power to the counties to step in and restrict conduct with regard to property if there is some legitimate connection to health, safety and welfare. He pointed out that although other counties have a groundwater ordinance it could be difficult to implement a groundwater ordinance for Kings County because of the diversities in the county. Mr. Nordstrom stated we have the right to control water going out of the county, however, we may be seeing new laws soon. He stated that several issues were being tested in San Luis Obispo County. Mr. Gatzka reported that LAFCO is responsible for special districts and that the Assembly member for San Luis Obispo County is trying to get LAFCO to take the lead on legislation to deal with ground water management.

**B. Recommendation of Amendment to Kings County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 08-003 – Creation of the Water Commission, concerning election of officers – Erik Kaeding**

Mr. Kaeding reported that the 2008 resolution for the formation of the Water Commission states that officers shall be elected every year and it also states that the Water Commission is to have by-laws. The by-laws state that the election of officers shall take place every two years which is inconsistent with the resolution. Commissioner Pedersen stated he was not in favor of term limits for Commissioners.

A motion was made and seconded (Mills/Verboon) to have Erik Kaeding prepare a resolution for the Board of Supervisors that would amend paragraph 8 of the 2008 resolution to state that officers will be elected per the by-laws. Motion carried unanimously with Reed absent.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**A. Staff Comments** – None

**B. Member Comments** – Chairman Gilkey gave a brief update on the water contract extension and reported that he would have a presentation at the next Water Commission meeting. Supervisor Verboon suggested considering some type of metering in order to monitor how much water is being used and where it's going. It was suggested that groundwater monitoring be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

**C. Correspondence** – Mr. Gatzka provided three pieces of correspondence: Senate Joint Resolution No. 25 as introduced by Senator Vidak, an article on Ventura County's groundwater supply, and a copy of Water Drought Preparedness Response PowerPoint.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Water Commission is Monday, May 19, 2014. The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
**KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION**

  
Greg Gatzka, Secretary