

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
Vacant

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 August 25, 2014. The KCWC meeting was held in the Human Services Cedar Room, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Bldg. 8, 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 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, Dan Kassik – Planner, Jordan Davis - Planner

VISITORS PRESENT: Joe Neves, Dave Orth, Michelle Speer, Scott Sills, Aubrey Bettencourt

UNSCHEDULED COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made and seconded (Pedersen/Verboon) to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2014 meeting with one correction on page 3 changing AQUA to ACWA. Motion carried unanimously with Reed absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program – David Orth

Mr. Orth provided an update on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. He reported that 840,000 acres are enrolled and that the regulatory program now covers all irrigated acreage. The objective is to keep high vulnerability areas small. Nitrates are the main area of concern but salinity is also an area of concern. He reported that farm evaluations are required to be submitted by March 1, 2015 for high vulnerability areas, low vulnerability deadlines a year later, and small farms the following year. Mr. Orth stated this reporting is no longer an option, growers will either have to join a coalition, 3rd party group, or report individually.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Extension of Long-term contract for Department of Water Resources to Provide Water Service to Project Contractors Under the State Water Project – Mark Gilkey and Chantal Quellet

Mr. Gilkey provided an overview of the State Water Project, how the contract started, and a brief history and where we are heading. He reported that 23 negotiation sessions had been held with the public which resulted in two workgroups being formed. One group is working on the agreement and principles and the other was a technical group. A PowerPoint presentation was provided by Mr. Gilkey and Chantal Quellet. Ms. Quellet reported that it was agreed to extend the contract for 50 years, implement a “pay-as-you-go” billing methodology for capital costs and conservation operation and maintenance, create a program to fund costs that presently aren’t customer funded and the create a finance steering committee. The goal of the financial committee is to provide capital financing and continue water supply services beyond 2035, enhance financial management, seek assurances for repayment obligation, streamline and improve transparency of billing process. She stated that the next step will be to develop agreements in principle and to begin the CEQA process.

A motion was made and seconded (Howe/Verboon) to recommend that the BOS approve the agreement in principle. Motion carried unanimously with Reed absent.

B. Delta Interim Fix Proposal

Commissioner Verboon gave a presentation proposing an interim fix for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The Interim Delta Fix would enlarge the existing channel by diverting the channel which would increase navigability between the San Joaquin River and the Sacramento River. He stated that the goals were to eliminate or reduce reverse flows, reduce salinity levels and to increase fresh water available in the central and south Delta. He also stated that Families Protecting the Valley is the group that is championing this plan.

No action was taken by the Commission.

MISCELLANEOUS

- A. **Staff Comments** – None
- B. **Member Comments** – Chairman Gilkey stated that things are starting to move on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan so the Commission may want to start looking at recommending a position for the County to take.
- C. **Correspondence** – None

ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Water Commission is Monday, November 24, 2014. The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted
KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION


Greg Gatzka, Secretary