

KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION

John Howe – District 1
Craig Pederson – District 4
Large

Mark Gilkey – District 2
Don Mills – District 5
Harold Reed – Special District
Harlin Casida – City Rep.

Jim Verboon – District 3
Brian Ehlers – Member at
Vacant – City Rep

KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Charles Draxler – Dairy Industry
Processing
Jim Gregory – Ag Chemicals & Petroleum
Grain
Diane Friend – Kings County Farm Bureau
Equipment

Vacant – Water
Bill Tos – Nut Crops
Dennis Tristao – Small Farms

Johnny Starling – Ag
Bob Prys – Feed/Seed &
Brian Potter – Ag

CALL TO ORDER: A special meeting of the Kings County Water Commission and the Kings County Ag Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairman Gilkey at 5:30 p.m., on August 25, 2014. The 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, Charles Draxler, Jim Gregory, Diane Friend, Dennis Tristao, Johnny Starling, Bob Prys

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brian Potter, Bill Tos, 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, Lou Camara, Chantal Quellet, Steve Stadler, Mike Nordstrom, Dale Melville, Steve Jackson, Roger Reynolds

UNSCHEDULED COMMENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Groundwater Study Session

A. Report on Groundwater Conditions – David Orth

Mr. Orth reported that California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring information is now available on-line. He also reported that groundwater levels are dropping and last year one million acre feet of groundwater was pumped. It is expected that another million acre feet will be pumped next year.

B. Groundwater Legislation

Mr. Orth provided an overview of two groundwater bills, SB1168 and AB1739, which were being drafted by Pavley and Dickenson. He stated that the bills would be going to vote this week (August 25-29, 2014). He also provided a letter of opposition from Kings River Conservation District and Kings River Water Association outlining principle concerns they have with the bills. He stated that the California Farm Bureau opposes the bills as they are written and has put in a counter proposal. If the bills pass, local entities would have 5 years to develop a sustainability plan and 20 years to reach sustainability.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon/ Tristao) to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they oppose both SB1168 and AB1739. Motion carried unanimously with Potter, Reed and Tos absent.

C. Jurisdiction/Authority of the County to Regulate and Manage Groundwater Resources – Erik Kaeding

Mr. Kaeding gave a presentation on the County’s jurisdiction to regulate groundwater. He reported that the counties have the power to regulate groundwater since the state has not occupied the field of groundwater regulation. He also explained that water rights give the owner a priority of water usage not an ownership of the water. He stated that any ground water regulation the County wants to do needs to consider CEQA and that a flat moratorium is probably not a good idea. He cited litigation in San Luis Obispo County regarding CEQA and water rights priority. He provided some examples of groundwater ordinances in other jurisdictions.

D. Options for Working with Districts, Groundwater Plans and Neighboring Counties

Nothing was discussed on this topic.

E. Groundwater Policy/Guiding Principles – Diane Friend

Diane Friend presented a draft Agricultural Groundwater Guiding Principles that was drafted by the Kings County Farm Bureau for consideration. It was the consensus of the joint committee that the draft Groundwater Guiding Principles be reviewed by the Water Commission and the Ag Advisory Committee individually.

MISCELLANEOUS

- A. **Future Agenda Items:** Agricultural Groundwater Guiding Principles
- B. **Member Comments** – None
- B. **Staff Comments** – None
- C. **Correspondence** – None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted
KINGS COUNTY WATER COMMISSION


Greg Gatzka, Secretary