

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority  
Advisory Committee Notes, September 22, 2010  
Fresno County Farm Bureau, 1274 W. Hedges, Fresno, 93728**

Notes of the Regular Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (Water Authority) held September 22, 2010.

1. Call to order

Advisory Committee Member Gary Serrato called the meeting to order at 9:40 am. It was noted that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee were not present, and there were nine Advisory Committee members present, which did not constitute a quorum.

**Directors/Alternate Directors Present:**

Lisa Koehn, City of Clovis (alternate)  
Joe Prado, County of Fresno (alternate)  
Gary Serrato, Fresno Irrigation District (alternate)  
Phil Desatoff, Consolidated Irrigation District (alternate)  
Don Mills, Kings County Water District (alternate)  
Roseann Galvan, City of Selma (alternate)

**Members Absent:**

Alta Irrigation District  
City of Fresno  
City of Kerman  
City of Kingsburg  
City of Parlier  
City of Reedley  
City of Sanger  
City of Dinuba  
County of Tulare  
Kings River Conservation District  
Raisin City Water District

**Interested Parties Present:**

Tim Bakman, Bakman Water Company  
David Cehrs, El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust, Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter  
Hank Urbach, Kings River Conservancy

**Interested Parties Absent:**

Biola Community Services District  
California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Chapter  
Community Water Center  
County of Kings  
Crescent Canal Company  
Cutler Public Utilities District  
James Irrigation District  
Kings River Water Association  
Laguna Irrigation District  
Laton Community Service District  
Liberty Canal Company  
Liberty Water District  
Mid-Valley Water District  
Orange Cove Irrigation District

Orosi Public Utilities District  
Reed Ditch Company  
Riverdale Irrigation District  
Riverdale Public Utility District  
Self-Help Enterprises  
Sierra Resource Conservation District  
Terranova Ranch, Inc.  
Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners

**Others Present:**

Rick Hoelzel, KRCD  
Eric Osterling, KRCD  
Cristel Tufenkjian, KRCD  
Amer Hussain, BSK  
Ron Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard  
Lon Martin, Provost & Pritchard  
Steve Stadler, KRCD  
Steve Pickens, Bakman Water Company

2. Addition to or Deletion from the Agenda  
There were no additions to or deletions from the agenda.
3. Public Presentations  
None
4. Review Notes of the August 26, 2010 Special Meeting of the Advisory Committee  
Serrato stated that the notes of the August 26, 2010 Advisory Committee Special Meeting were in the agenda packet for the Committee members review.
5. Election of Authority Officers  
Serrato stated that the current Acting Chair David Cone will be resigning from KRCD at the end of the year, so a new chair will need to be chosen. Since there is not a quorum, the Committee will need to appoint an acting chair and vice chair. Serrato recommended that Advisory Committee member Dave Orth be appointed acting chair and that the Committee reappoint Brock Buche as acting vice chair. The Committee agreed to the recommendation.
6. Work Group Reports and Recommendations  
Serrato called on staff member Eric Osterling to give a report on the Project Work Group activities. Osterling reported that the Project Work Group conducted a workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the process for submitting projects to the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) project list amendment. Osterling noted that the participation in the workshop was minimal and he encouraged committee members to contact him for assistance if they are going to submit projects. Osterling stated that the deadline for project submittal was October 22.

Serrato called on Osterling to also give a report on the Groundwater Monitoring Work Group activities. Osterling stated that a draft monitoring plan has been developed and is currently being reviewed by the Kings Groundwater Basin entities. The plan is being developed to cover the coordinated monitoring and reporting of groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and land surface subsidence. Kings River Conservation District (KRCD) has proposed to be the coordinator under the plan and the entity responsible for reporting groundwater elevations to the Department of Water Resources for the Basin.

A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been prepared and sent to the entities for review and consideration. The MOU describes the various entities responsibilities for gathering data and reporting it to KRCD, coordinating and reporting responsibilities of KRCD, and the cost sharing of expenses. Currently the entities involved are Alta Irrigation District (AID), Consolidated Irrigation District, Fresno Irrigation District (FID) and KRCD.

Discussion followed by committee members regarding the municipalities and irrigation reporting requirements for groundwater elevations, reporting requirements for water quality and subsidence, how the region be covered, and the role of the Water Authority and KRCD. It was noted by Osterling that KRCD is taking a proactive approach on behalf of the region to meeting the monitoring and reporting requirements.

7. Staff Reports

Serrato called on Osterling to report on the planning and implementation contracts. Osterling stated that the Water Authority has a number of contracts that are standing and some that are pending. Osterling reported that the planning grant application is going well and that the due date is September 14.

The Proposition 50 Supplemental grant involving Fresno Irrigation District Jameson Pond Expansion Project and Phase II of the City of Fresno Residential Water Meter Project has been awarded partial funding. Staff is still waiting on a contract.

The Proposition 50 Round 2 grant is moving forward, which is a grant for the construction of two groundwater storage and recharge projects located within the AID and FID and the installation of 10,000 of the City of Fresno's planned 110,000 residential water meters. CEQA has been completed for the FID Jameson Pond Project and City of Fresno Metering Project. FID is going out for bid, and the City of Fresno will be completing their component within the next 6 months.

The Proposition 13 grant is the construction of two groundwater storage and recharge projects located within AID. The City of Dinuba is a project partner with AID. Osterling stated that AID's project has been completed, and KRCD is assisting the City of Dinuba deal with financing issues for their portion of the project.

The Kings River Conservancy received a River Parkways Program grant under Proposition 84. The project is a 1.5-mile recreational river access trail with parking and ancillary facilities along the Kings River between Pine Flat Dam and Choinumni Park. A half mile of the trail will be handicap accessible.

Osterling reported that a Prop 84 services contract with DWR has been awarded to the Water Authority for a water resources-related outreach and infrastructure planning pilot. The purpose of the pilot is to empower Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) within the Kings Basin region to effectively participate in the region's integrated regional water management planning and develop long-term solutions to DAC water challenges. The information from the pilot project will also be used in the update of the Upper Kings Basin IRWMP. The contract amount is \$500,000. Osterling stated that the proposal was approved by the Water Authority Board and that once the project begins, a DAC Work Group will be formed, which will be open to participation by Advisory Committee members.

Serrato called on staff member Cristel Tufenkjian to report on public information efforts. Tufenkjian reported that staff is working on designing a logo for the Water Authority. Tufenkjian mentioned that an Outreach Work Group would be formed to review and provide input to staff regarding the logo. Advisory Committee members Hank Urbach and Roseann Galvan volunteered to serve on the Outreach Work Group.

Serrato called on staff member Rick Hoelzel to report on legislation. Hoelzel reported that the final guidelines for the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) have not been released. The committee discussed what the requirements would be for reporting under SB 1938 plans and the new requirements under CASGEM. It was noted that 1938 requirements are voluntary. CASGEM will include the monitoring and reporting of groundwater elevation data.

Serrato called on Osterling to report on the Water Authority's Conflict of Interest Code. Osterling reported that the draft Conflict-of-Interest Code designates the positions of Secretary-Treasurer, General Counsel, and Consultants to disclose economic interest for several categories. Consultants have been included in the list of designated positions because under certain circumstances, they may be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest. These positions, along with Board Members and Alternates, have been identified as possibly having conflict of interest that may influence recommendations to the Authority and/or decision making of the Authority. The filing of disclosure forms will allow for the identification of any possible conflict of interest that may affect decision making. The Advisory Committee discussed the requirements for filing and who would actually be required to fill out a Form 700.

Serrato called on Osterling to report on letters of recommendations. Osterling reported that staff has received from other organizations requests for letters of recommendation from the Water Authority. Since the Water Authority meets quarterly, it can be difficult to meet the deadline of the requesting agency. In order to better respond to these requests, it is being recommended that staff develop guidelines for responding to letters of recommendation. These draft guiding principles will be brought back to the Advisory Committee and Board in a subsequent meeting for approval. The Advisory Committee agreed to the recommendation and discussed that the guiding principles should be aligned with the Water Authority's mission and that letters from supporting agencies associated with Advisory Committee members could be considered.

8. Recommendation for Prop 84 Round 1 Implementation

Osterling stated that due to the compressed timeline for Proposition 84, Round 1 application submittal, staff recommends the Advisory Committee consider tasking the Project Work Group with the following Round 1 Proposition 84 IRWM items: update the draft Project Application Process; develop the Project Prioritization Process & Ranking Criteria; and appoint a no-conflict Project Selection Panel. This will allow the project work group to make its project recommendation directly to the Board rather than having a special meeting of the Advisory Committee. The committee agreed to the recommendation.

Osterling also reported that a resolution will be presented to the Water Authority Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting to authorize the Chairman, or his designee, to apply for Planning Grant funding under the Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program, Round 1, and to execute a Planning Grant agreement with the California Department of Water Resources.

9. Recommendation to approve City of San Joaquin as an Interested Party

Serrato reported that the City of San Joaquin has requested to join the Authority as an Interested Party. Serrato noted that although there is not a quorum, the Advisory Committee could communicate their support for the City of San Joaquin's request. The Committee agreed to the recommendation.

OTHER ITEMS

10. Other items for discussion or reporting

The Advisory Committee discussed possible options to present to the Board for streamlining the decision making process for the Advisory Committee including changing the Joint Powers Agreement designation of a quorum for the Advisory Committee. It was suggested that an attorney review possible ways to accomplish this change such as a minute order by the Board as a temporary solution. The Committee decided to take this matter up in January 2011.

In other matters, Urbach thanked KRCD for their support in developing the Kings River Conservancy's grant application that resulted in an award to construct a 1.5-mile recreational river access trail and other facilities along the Kings River. Urbach noted that this shows the importance of the relationships developed through the Water Authority. He also reported that the Kings River Conservancy executes a contract every year with the California Department of Fish & Game for additional Warden support. He stated that the Conservancy has a funding drive to support this effort. For those who would like to participate, they can go to [kingsriverconservancy.org](http://kingsriverconservancy.org).

11. Next Meeting Date

It was noted that the regularly scheduled meeting for the Advisory Committee is right before the holidays on December 22, 2010. It was suggested to change the date and send an e-mail notice of the date change to the Advisory Committee members.

ADJOURNMENT

The Advisory Committee agreed to convey to the Board of Directors the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Orth  
Secretary/Treasurer

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Approved

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