

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Advisory Committee Notes, June 22, 2011
Fresno County Farm Bureau, 1274 W. Hedges, Fresno, 93728**

Notes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (Committee) of the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (Water Authority) held June 22, 2011.

1. Call to order

Advisory Committee Acting Chair David Orth called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. Orth noted that there were not enough members present to constitute a quorum.

Directors/Alternate Directors Present:

Phil Desatoff, Consolidated Irrigation District (alternate)
David Orth, Kings River Conservation District (alternate)
Steve Worthley, County of Tulare
Joe Prado, County of Fresno (alternate)
Roseann Galvan, City of Selma (alternate)
Brock Buche, City of Fresno (alternate)
Lisa Koehn, City of Clovis (alternate)
Jerry Boren, Raisin City Water District

Members Absent:

Fresno Irrigation District
City of Dinuba
Alta Irrigation District
City of Parlier
City of Sanger
City of Kingsburg
City of Kerman
City of Reedley
Kings County Water District

Interested Parties Present:

Paul Boyer, Self-Help Enterprises
Carole Combs, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners
James Mallyon, James Irrigation District
Tim Bakman, Bakman Water Company
Lucy Rodriguez, East Orosi Communities Service District
Laurel Firestone, Community Water Center
Jerry Lakeman, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

Interested Parties Absent:

Biola Community Services District
California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Chapter
City of San Joaquin
County of Kings
Crescent Canal Company
Cutler Public Utilities District
Hardwick Water Company
Kings River Water Association
Laguna Irrigation District
Laton Community Service District
London Community Services District
Mid-Valley Water District

Orange Cove Irrigation District
Orosi Public Utilities District
Reed Ditch Company
Riverdale Irrigation District
Riverdale Public Utility District
Sierra Resource Conservation District
Sultana Community Services District
Kings River Conservancy
Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter
El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust
Liberty Canal Company
Liberty Water District
Terranova Ranch, Inc.

Others Present:

Eric Osterling, KRCD
Cristel Tufenkjian, KRCD
Ron Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard
Denise Akins, Tulare County
Kathy Wood, Watershed Coordinator for the Tulare Funding Area
John Ornellas, City of Reedley
Steve Pickens, Bakman Water Company

Addition to or Deletion from the Agenda

There were no additions to or deletions from the agenda.

Public Presentations

None

Review of the December 15, 2010 Regular Meeting and April 20, 2011 Special Meeting Notes

Orth stated that the notes of the December 15, 2010 meeting were sent out yesterday and the April 20, 2011 notes of the special meeting were in the agenda packet for the Committee members' review.

Work Group Reports and Recommendations

Monitoring Work Group - Orth called on staff member Eric Osterling to report on Monitoring Work Group activities. Osterling reported that the Monitoring Work Group had not officially met since the last Committee meeting. Work is continuing on the SBx7 7 CASGEM data set. KRCD staff members have received well information from all participating entities in the Tulare and Kings sub-basins and have prepared preliminary maps. Content is being prepared for the planning document. The coordinated SB 1938 work is continuing. Staff members have been working on common goals and objectives for the various SB 1938 plans.

Model Work Group - Orth called on staff member Eric Osterling to report on Model Work Group activities. Osterling reported that the Work Group met in May to discuss policy related to the use of the Kings Basin Integrated Groundwater and Surface Water Model. The Work Group prepared a draft policy document that will be discussed during agenda item #8.

Outreach Work Group - Orth called on staff member Cristel Tufenkjian to report on Outreach Work Group activities. Tufenkjian reported that the Outreach Work Group has been working on branding the Water Authority. Tufenkjian reported that three domain names have been registered for the Water Authority: www.kingsbasinwater.org, www.kingswater.org, and www.kingsbasinauthority.org. These domain names currently direct the user to the Water Authority's webpages at www.krcd.org. It was decided by the Committee to recommend www.kingsbasinwater.org as the domain name for a future website to be developed by the Water Authority. Tufenkjian also reported that the Outreach Work

Group met to develop a draft logo for the Water Authority. The Work Group considered several elements for the design of the logo including: the symbolism of the Kings River's name; the Authority represents a basin not a river; the color scheme; and fonts. Tufenkjian presented several logo concepts. The committee discussed additional logo concepts including: ag, urban and environmental elements; an aerial shot that includes river, valley and agricultural scenes; and water as a visible element. It was also suggested that the logo could have two versions depending on the uses. One version would be a simpler version. Tufenkjian reported that the logos and the recommendations by the committee will be presented to the Water Authority Board at their July 20 meeting. Tufenkjian also reported that she has included \$1,000 in the budget for a graphic artist to prepare 2-3 mockups based on the preliminary designs, which will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting.

Staff Reports

Planning and Implementation Contracts - Orth called on staff member Eric Osterling to report on planning and implementation contracts. Osterling reported that a status table of the planning and implementation contracts were included in the agenda packet. Osterling noted that the Prop. 84 River and Parkways Grant was not included in the table. The architectural work is in progress for this grant. Osterling reported that a draft contract will be out within a couple of months for the Prop. 84 DACS Pilot Program. Prop. 13 Groundwater Storage Construction Grant Program is completed. Discussion followed regarding contract timelines. Interested Party member Laurel Firestone reported that the Tulare Lake Basin DACs water/wastewater study is starting. She reported that she plans to keep the Water Authority updated on the progress of this study.

Inter-regional and Statewide Coordination - Orth called on staff member Eric Osterling to report on inter-regional and statewide coordination. Osterling reported that KRCD staff members attend monthly coordination meetings of the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region JPAs. At the last meeting, the group discussed Fresno State's California Water Institute preparation of a proposal for a system optimization review under the Bureau's grant application. One of the first phases is to seek input from various stakeholders in the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region. The coordinating group members agreed to assist Fresno State in developing a scope of work that was agreeable to members in the region. Committee members discussed the scope of work of the Fresno State proposal. It was concluded that if the scope of work focused on climate change it would benefit the Water Authority and member agencies.

Public Information - Orth called on staff member Cristel Tufenkjian to report on public information. Tufenkjian reported that a media event and/or press release will be developed for the grant awards once contracts have been issued.

Legislation - Orth reported on two bills that are being tracked by Kings River interests that impact IRWMPs.

SB 834 (Wolk) Integrated regional water management plans: contents. The bill was originally drafted requiring an integrated regional water management plan to demonstrate the manner in which the plan complies with a specified state policy concerning reducing reliance on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for water supply and improving regional self-reliance for water. The bill has been amended to narrow the scope of the impact to only those regions that receive water supply that originates in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This excludes the Kings Basin in its current draft from complying with that requirement. There are concerns that the whole state is dependent on the Delta water supply, so it could be extended to encompass all IRWMPs. The Kings River interests have a Not Favor position. The Association of California Water Agencies has a Watch position.

AB 359 (Huffman) Groundwater management plans. This bill requires that groundwater management plans include identification of prime recharge areas and that a map representing the prime areas be included in IRWMPs and the general planning process. There is also a noticing process in the bill. The Water Authority has complied with these requirements. The Kings River

Legislative Committee has a Neutral position on the bill. The bill has been recently amended to require specific notification to four agencies, Western Growers Association, California Farm Bureau Association, Cattlemen Association, and the California Chamber of Commerce.

Interested Party member Paul Boyer asked whether a position was taken by the Water Authority or other entities on SB 263 (Pavley). This bill requires that well log reports be made available to the public. Orth reported that the Kings River Legislative Committee has a Watch position. Boyer reported that Self-Help Enterprises has a Support position.

Request by the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District to join the Water Authority as a Member

Orth reported that a request letter to join the Water Authority as a member and the required documents have been received from the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. Tufenkjian reported that the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District appointed District Board Chair Roy Spina as their Director and Director Buzz Burleson and staff members Bob Van Wyk and Jerry Lakeman as their alternates. The Committee decided to recommend to the Board of Directors to approve the addition of the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District as a member.

Recommendation to approve Policy No. UKB-003 – Guidelines on use of the Kings Integrated Groundwater and Surface Water Model (Kings IGSM) and its supporting data

Orth called on staff member Eric Osterling to discuss the proposed guidelines on the use of the Kings Integrated Groundwater and Surface Water Model. Osterling reported that this document was prepared by the Model Work Group. It is an updated version from one that was developed a number of years ago. The purpose of this document is to provide an updated process for use of the Kings Integrated Groundwater and Surface Water Model (the Model) and the use of the Kings IGSM raw data. The policy transfers the ownership of the Model to the Authority. It states that requests for use of the Model must be in writing to KRCD. The data is the sole property of the contributing agency; therefore, there must be a written request to the contributing agency before using the data. It also states that the running of the Model can be done by either Authority staff or a third-party consultant. The requesting agency is responsible for all costs associated with running the Model.

Discussion followed by the committee regarding the use of the model for regional planning versus member specific use. Osterling noted that future discussions will need to occur by the Model Work Group regarding the updating of the Model as it pertains to the planning process or whether a different model is needed. This policy does not address that issue. It was noted by the Committee that this policy should also pertain to future models. A concern was raised about the policy's requirement that Interested Parties must have a member agency's sponsorship to run the Model, which creates an extra step for the Interested Party and does not provide them equal access to the Model. It was recommended by Interested Parties representative Laurel Firestone that this be changed to allow Interested Parties to directly request the use of the Model. Discussion followed regarding the cost of running the Model, the size of the Model, the sensitivity and confidentiality of the data, and quality control of the Model run. It was noted that the sub-agreement provisions regarding confidentiality and cost reimbursement would be extended to Interested Parties.

It was decided by the Committee to have the Model Work Group make edits to respond to the discussion including clarity on the use process, accessibility to Interested Parties, and the funding requirements. The Model Work Group participants include Lisa Koehn, Gary Serrato, Eric Osterling, Rick Hoelzel, Phil Desatoff, Brock Buche, David Cehrs, and Dean Uota. Interested Party representatives will be notified and asked to participate in the Model Work Group meeting to discuss the policy update. The Committee also decided that the Model Work Group will bring the updated policy directly to the Board once their updating process is complete.

Recommendation to approve Policy No. UKB-004 – General Support and Endorsement Letter Policy

Orth called on staff member Eric Osterling to discuss the proposed general support and endorsement letter policy. Osterling reported that the purpose of this policy is to provide direction and to define

basic restrictions regarding support of programs and other extrinsic activities, and/or endorsement letters for outside projects. The policy states that any request for a letter of support from the Water Authority regarding a project or activity must relate to the goals and objectives of the IRWMP and not conflict with the IRWMP or the Water Authority's JPA. The reason for this policy is to allow a quicker response to a request. Discussion followed regarding whether the policy applied to projects located within or outside of the Water Authority's boundaries. It was decided by the Committee to clarify that a project may be within the Authority's boundary or inter-regionally connected. The committee decided to make the suggested edits and present the updated policy to the Board at July 20, 2011 meeting.

Other items for discussion or reporting

Orth asked Kathy Wood, Watershed Coordinator for the Tulare Lake Funding Area, to give a brief overview of her position. Wood reported that she is working under the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners on a conservation grant. One of her main goals is to work with all of the IRWMPs in the Tulare Basin on planning and design of environmental projects. Wood will be attending the Water Authority meetings and providing updates on the conservation grant.

Brock Buche recommended that the Water Authority form a work group to start developing larger, more regional projects that can be ready for submission when future grant opportunities become available. The Committee supported the concept and decided to incorporate this into the IRWMP update with the possibility of forming a Project Development Work Group.

Next Meeting Date

Orth noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting for the Advisory Committee is September 21, 2011 at 9:30 am at the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Orth
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved

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