North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Special Meeting Minutes

Members Preser	nt:	Members Absent:		
Buddy Mendes, Division 1 Frank Zonneveld, Division 2 Danielle Roberts, Division 3 Mark McKean, Division 4 Leonard Acquistapace, Division 5 Tony Campos, Division 7		Division 6		
		Others Present:		
John Coelho, Liberty Canal		Scott Sills, Laguna ID Amanda Monaco, Leadership Counsel		
Don Wright, WaterWrights.net				
John D Coelho		Kyle Moeller, Fowler Packing		
Jeff Parcell, Riverdale Unified School District Julianne Phillips, Kings County		Christina Guzman, Fresno County Eva Dominguez, Self-Help Enterprises		
				Glenn Allen, Fresi
Jerry Gragnani, St	tinson/Crescent			
Gagau Batth, Batt	th Farms	Bret Sill, Sill Properties		
		Cristel Tufenkjian, Kings	River Conservation District	
Item 1:	CALL TO ORDER	Presenter:	Chair McKean	
The mee	ting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.			
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Cristel Tufenkjian drew attention to corrections made on page 21 of Special Act legislation, signed by the Governor in an omnibus bill package. Both Riverdale Irrigation District's title and the member selection process for Liberty Mill Race and Burrel Ditch Company were corrected in the recently approved legislation.

A representative from SHE requested the Board consider clarifying the member selection process for Division 3 if or when another need arises to amend the North Fork Kings GSA Act.

Actions: None.

Item 5:	FORMATION OF WORK GROUPS	Presenter:

Discussion:

Staff member Cristel Tufenkjian asked for recommendations as to who could serve on technical, industry, and outreach work groups for the benefit of North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency's (NFKGSA). The Board agreed to bring a list of individuals for consideration and asked staff for descriptions of responsibilities for the work groups suggested.

Cristel Tufenkjian

Amanda Monaco, Leadership Counsel, updated the board on the formation, planning, and outreach efforts for the Rural Advisory Committee and clarified expectations regarding the application process, which will be approved by the Board prior to holding a Committee meeting. Monaco will submit applications to the Board for consideration at the January 11, 2018 meeting.

Actions: None.

Item 6: UPDATE ON PROPOSITION 218 ELECTION PROCESS Presenter: Kevin Johansen

Discussion:

Kevin Johansen, NFKGSA Technical Consultant, Provost & Pritchard, presented information on NFKGSA's current and projected budget, the status of the required Engineer's Report, and the Prop 218 2018 election timeline. Johansen also summarized the process in which the Board adopted Prop 218, Section 4 as the funding mechanism to pay for administration and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development expenses, to be collected by the counties on behalf of the GSA.

If approved by a majority vote, the Prop 218 land-based assessments would also reimburse water districts who provided funds to the GSA. According to the proposed Engineer's Report five-year budget up for approval, the water districts will be reimbursed over a two year period. The amount that has been collected and will be collected by the water districts through June 2018 is \$529,424. Additionally, the Board will need to approve a budget to cover additional funds after June 2018 and until NFKGSA receives the Prop 218 assessments from the counties, expected in the late-Spring of 2019. The water districts will need to contribute more funds to cover this period of time, not included in the \$529,424 already received. The five-year budget up for approval did not include a scenario in which the Prop 218 election fails and the water districts continue funding the GSA's work.

Work on the Engineer's Report is ongoing and currently includes approximately 164,000 acres of assessable land. As required by Prop 218, Section 4 elections, the Report will also define public benefit and how these assessments will benefit all parcels of land equally. Johansen presented maximum allowable assessment scenarios ranging from \$4.50-10.00 per acre, recommending that the Board adopt an assessment of \$10.00 per acre as the maximum allowable amount. Given the expenses associated with conducting a Prop 218 election, the Board expressed a desire to select the maximum allowable assessment that will allow for flexibility. The public and the Board discussed the intent of an "Enterprise Fund", as titled within the five-year budget, in order to have additional funds available for grant-matching opportunities and groundwater monitoring costs. Related to groundwater monitoring costs, the Board discussed setting up a monitoring network within various zones using abandoned wells and that they are waiting to hear on the possibility of using existing water quality wells to also monitor groundwater activity.

After approval of a five-year budget, Johansen will present the Draft Engineer's Report at the January 2018 Board meeting for approval. Educational outreach to the public on the Prop 218 election will occur January-March 2018.

Actions:

Director Zonneveld motioned, Director Acquistapace seconded, and it was unanimously carried to accept the five-year budget with an assessment of up to \$10.00 per acre, as presented.

Item 7: <u>CONSIDER MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATION CHANGE</u> Presenter: Chair McKean,

Cristel Tufenkjian

Discussion:

Given public attendance at meetings, the Board will be increasing the recurrence of meetings and will change its meeting location to allow for greater capacity.

Actions:

Director Acquistapace motioned, Director Mendes seconded, and it was unanimously carried to change the Board meeting schedule and location to the following times and places: bi-monthly meetings on the third Wednesday at the Riverdale Community Center.

 Item 8:
 CONSIDER APPROVING LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR LCJA
 Presenter:
 Cristel Tufenkjian

 PROP 1 SGMA PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION
 Cristel Tufenkjian
 Cristel Tufenkjian
 Cristel Tufenkjian

Discussion:

The Leadership Counsel requested a letter of support from NFKGSA for its Prop 1 grant funding application for administering the GSA's Public Advisory Committee and for outreach efforts to better inform the public.

Actions:

Director Zonneveld motioned, Director Campos seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve a letter of support for the Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability 2017 Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant, Category 1 funding application.

Item 9:	OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	
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Discussion:

A letter of opposition for the Semitropic Water Storage Project was sent on behalf of the GSA to the California Water Commission, who is reviewing Proposition 1 grant funding applications. Several individuals from the Kings River appeared at a meeting of the California Water Commission to express their opposition to the Project's application for Prop 1 funding.

Chair McKean attended a technical GSA coordination meeting and suggested a closer examination by the GSA of some of the more recent technical results. Progress was made on developing a method for mediating conflicts that may arise between the GSAs.

Actions:

Chair McKean appointed Directors Zonneveld, Acquistapace, and himself to a Committee to discuss technical information presented in the coordination meeting.

Item 10: NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

Presenter: Cristel

Presenter:

Cristel Tufenkjian

Chair McKean

Discussion:

January 10, 2018 5:30pm at the Riverdale Public Utility District Annex

Actions: None.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Maddox Jr., Board Secretary

approved on January 10, 2018

Mark McKean, Board Chair