

North Fork Kings GSA
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 22, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency was held on March 22, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at the Riverdale Community Education Center located at 3160 W. Mt. Whitney Ave. Riverdale, CA 93656.

Directors Present:	Mark McKean	Buddy Mendes
	Frank Zonneveld	Tony Campos
	John Mendes	

Directors Absent:	Steve Maddox, Jr.	Jim Petty
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Also Present:	Justin Mendes	Kevin Johansen
	Aubrey Mauritsen	Cody Raven
	Connor McKean	Daniel Errotabere
	Scott Sills	Gary Coelho
	Johnny Serpa	Steve Gulley
	Rodney Kemper	Eddie Mendes
	Mike Pimentel	Jason Dewey
	Chad Swearingen	Luke Vanderham
	Geoff Vandenhuevel	Darlene Vandenhuevel
	Eric Te Velde	Frank Coelho, Jr.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman McKean opened the meeting for public comment. General Manager Mendes presented an email submitted by Scott Sills prior to the meeting.

Director Zonneveld requested Laguna Irrigation District's request to be a "management area" be included in the minutes.

General Counsel Mauritsen inquired as to where in the past minutes the request was to be made. She advised to attach to the minutes the email Mr. Sills sent.

Public comment from Rodney Kemper.

General Manager Mendes reviewed Mr. Sills' email for the public.

Public comment from Scott Sills.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES

General Manager Mendes referred the board to Agenda Item No. 3, a copy of the January 25, 2023 regular meeting and February 2, 2023, special board meeting minutes.

Director Mendes moved and Director Zonneveld seconded to approve the minutes as presented in the agenda packet. The motion was unanimously approved.

ADOPTION OF EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

General Manager Mendes referred the board to Agenda Item No. 4, a copy of the draft Emergency Ordinance which acknowledges the Governor's Executive Order N-4-23 and promotes groundwater recharge within the NFKGSA to assist with flood control.

Director Zonneveld moved and Director Mendes seconded to approve the Ordinance as presented in the agenda packet.

Public comment from Rodney Kemper.

The motion was unanimously approved.

GENERAL MANAGER & COMMITTEE REPORTS

General Manager Mendes provided a report on recent matters. He described the importance of recharge within the GSA and noted the Governor's Executive Order relaxed standards to accomplish just that. Mr. Mendes reviewed current estimated overdraft of 120,000 ac-ft for the NFKGSA. From late February of 2023, until today, about 90,000 ac-ft have been diverted out the James bypass. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item No. 5 is a copy of presentation materials shown.

In early February, the GSA contracted for Section 215 water from the Bureau of Reclamation, with an authorization to purchase up to 75,000 ac-ft. The Program only ran for one week on the Kings River. Section 215 water was ran for six to seven days, which allowed recharge in the Kings River and to assist units with losses.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee has met twice since the last board meeting. The focus has been on a draft Well Mitigation Plan and discussion surrounding surface water recharge credits versus groundwater credits. Regarding the Well Mitigation Plan, further discussion will occur with the Technical Advisory Committee. Staff is also waiting to see corrective measures from DWR as those likely address domestic wells.

Rural Advisory Communities Committee

The Rural Advisory Communities Committee reviewed the draft Well Mitigation Plan and had several comments which will be taken under consideration.

Grower Advisory Committee

The Grower Advisory Committee meeting had its first meeting this past month. The focus was on well registration software. The next meeting will be on April 26, 2023.

Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee met last Wednesday. There was significant discussion on the components of Sustainable Yield.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee did not meet in February, but did meet in January. As a reminder, there will be no assessment for the next fiscal year.

Subbasin Coordination Meeting

The Subbasin Coordination meeting was held last Friday. The bulk of the discussion was on Sustainable Yield.

Discussion ensued regarding Sustainable Yield.

GSP PROGRAM & TECHNICAL UPDATE

Consulting Engineer Johansen provided a report. He provided a summary of the amended GSP process this last summer, and the deficiencies that were identified. He provided a report on the recent determination status from DWR re the amended GSP. The Kings Subbasin has received a conditional approval.

He announced a data request has been received from the Tulare Lake Subbasin.

Public comment from Frank Coelho

Discussion ensued regarding the subbasin negotiations and the GSP approval process.

Discussion continued regarding data request.

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

General Manager Mendes provided a report on recent matters.

Cristel Tufenkjian officially retires from KRCD this month. She was doing outreach for the GSA. NFKGSA will continue to contract with KRCD for financial services until the end of the fiscal year. After an ad-hoc discussion, Mr. Mendes will pursue utilizing services available from P&P.

Discussion continued regarding outreach to recharge.

Public comment from Cody Raven and Rodney Kemper.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

[Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]

Number of Potential Cases: Two

The Board of Directors, while in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2), met with General Counsel Aubrey Mauritsen regarding two potential items of anticipated litigation.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Report Action Taken in Closed Session Required by Government Code Section 54957.1

The Board of Directors returned to open session. Chairman McKean announced the board unanimously approved a one year extension tolling agreement with Westlands Water District.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman McKean announced the next meeting of the board of directors will be April 26, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Maddox, Secretary