

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority (Kings River Coalition) held September 16, 2014. The meeting was held at the offices of the Kings River Conservation District (KRCD) located at 4886 E. Jensen Avenue, Fresno, CA 93725.

CALL TO ORDER

President Mark McKean called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

DIRECTORS / ALTERNATES PRESENT (18 of 27 Members Present)

ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT - Alternate Chris Kapheim
 CONSOLIDATED IRRIGATION DISTRICT- Alternate Director Phil Desatoff
 CORCORAN IRRIGATION CO. - Director Walter Bricker
 CRESENT CANAL COMPANY - Director Mark McKean
 EMPIRE WEST SIDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT - Director John Howe
 FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT - Director George Porter, Alternate Gary Serrato
 KINGS RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT - Director Mark McKean/Alternate David Orth
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 PEOPLES DITCH CO. - Director Walter Bricker
 REED DITCH CO. - Director Mark McKean, Alternate Gary Smith
 RIVERDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT - Director Leonard Acquistapace,
 SOUTHEAST LAKE WATER CO. - Director Walter Bricker
 TULARE LAKE BASIN WATER STORAGE DIST - Director Walter Bricker
 TULARE LAKE CANAL CO. - Director Walter Bricker
 UPPER SAN JOSE WATER CO. - Director Mike Nordstrom

OTHERS PRESENT

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|--|---|
| Eric Athorp, KRCD | Dennis Mills, Kings County Water District |
| Steve Haugen, KRWA | Donna Pepper, KRCD |
| Casey Creamer, KRCD | Steve Stadler, KRCD |
| Charlotte Gallock, Westland Water District | Bill Stretch, Fresno ID |
| Tom Hurlbutt, JG Boswell | Dennis Mills, Kings County Water District |
| David Kahn, Riverdale ID | JJ Westra, TLBWS |
| Kevin Johansen, Provost & Pritchard | |

ADDITION TO OR DELETION FROM THE AGENDA: None

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: President McKean recognized Mike LaSalle, a Hanford farmer and retired attorney who then addressed the Board. Mr. LaSalle stated he is new to the Coalition and this was his first meeting he has attended. Mr. LaSalle said he is the only individual farm owner who has filed a petition for review challenging the Regional Board’s General Order for the Tulare Lake Basin Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). To his knowledge, there are three water storage districts; a few other coalitions and the California Farm Bureau that have also file petitions. He does not know why this Coalition did not file a petition. He is looking to the Coalition to represent him as a farmer and he would like the agricultural community to push back the Regional Board and oppose the General Order. Mr. LaSalle also stated he would like the Coalition to spend some of the money they are collecting from

Coalition members and hire experts to help develop a Groundwater Assessment Report, Isotope Study or other scientific studies.

REPORTS

Casey Creamer, Coordinator, responded to the concerns of Mr. LaSalle. Mr. Creamer reported the Kings River Water Quality Coalition as a member of the Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition has filed a petition to the East San Joaquin General Order and the Tulare Lake Basin General Order. The Coalition has also hired technical consultants to develop the Groundwater Assessment Report (GAR) and those results will be based on sound science. Mr. Creamer assured Mr. LaSalle that it is possible after the submittal of the GAR on November 20, 2014, there will be a lengthy timeline before approval and the Coalition will be arguing the scientific merits with the Regional Board. Mr. Creamer further reported the Coalition also approved funding for an initial phase of an Isotope Study by Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, and has also asked the Regional Board for additional time to implement the General Order requirements.

Agricultural Expert Panel: Mr. Creamer also reported Mr. McKean is a member of the Agricultural Expert Panel, organized to assess existing agricultural nitrate control programs and develop recommendations to ensure that efforts are protective of groundwater supply quality in fulfillment of SBX2 1.

Mr. McKean reported the Expert Panel issued Recommendations to the State Water Resources Control Board pertaining to the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program on September 9, 2014.

State Water Resources Control Board Fees: Mr. Creamer reported as of this date the State Board fees will be \$.75 per acre. The Coalition continues its efforts to get the fee reduced and has not yet been successful. The Coalition fee for implementing the regulations and for fiscal and administrative costs is proposed to be \$2.15 an acre and will be reduced if the State Board fee is reduced. Invoices to Coalition members will be sent out the last week of September 2014.

Farm Evaluation Report: Mr. Creamer reported the southern valley coalitions have submitted Farm Evaluation Report templates to the Regional Board and have not received comments or approval. The Sediment and Erosion Control Plan is not yet completed but a draft has been circulated for review. The Coalition has requested a one year extension for submitting the Farm Evaluation Report, however the Regional Board has suggested they would delay by a couple of months. The Coalition will hold to a one year delay as the Regional Board considers changes to the General Order.

Landowner Advisory Group: Mr. Creamer reported the Advisory Group held its first meeting. The Advisory Group is responsible for informing and updating their respective industry groups about ILRP developments and share information with their community of growers. The Advisory Group has discussed potential policies the Coalition can abide by. Once policies are approved by the board, all members will receive the final document as information on how the Coalition will respond to issues.

Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition MOU: Mr. Creamer reported on October 1, 2014 the Amended Restated and Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition Memorandum of Understanding will be effective. Only Third-party Groups implementing the ILRP are signatories to the MOU moving forward. At the next monthly meeting the Kings River Water Quality Coalition is expected to fill the Coordinator role and Administrative and Fiscal Agent role for the organization.

CV-SALTS: The Executive Committee is continuing work on key terms and definitions at a meeting this Thursday. The group will discuss the draft SSALTS report at the October meeting.

Technical work is continuing on the Alta Irrigation District Project. Once that work has been completed, the stakeholder group will be reconvened to review and discuss the next steps.

Grants: Mr. Rick Hoelzel reported an application to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) a proposal has been submitted. The program would fund future development efforts and allow landowners to receive funds for projects for drip irrigation, micro sprinklers, pipe replacement, technical assistance and more in the Tulare Lake Region. Funds will be awarded October 17th.

Member Enrollment: Mr. Hoelzel reported an additional 70 members have signed up through the Regional Boards late enrollment process. Membership is currently 5,421 members, 825,655 acres enrolled and 17,229 parcels.

Groundwater Assessment Report (GAR): Mr. Hoelzel reported receiving the draft GAR from the consultants and it is now under review. A Technical Assessment Committee will be formed within the next month to examine and comment on the report.

Outreach: Cristel Tufenkjian reported a Coalition newsletter was sent to all members at the end of August which covered coalition activities and is also posted on the website. A media blitz is scheduled for the end of September to explain Coalition activities and to inform landowners of the new regulations. The media involved will be farm bureaus, community groups and agriculture publications.

Mr. Creamer announced to the members that if they would like someone to speak and answer questions from their boards, committees or grower groups, to contact Cristel and staff will be scheduled to attend your meeting.

ACTION ITEM

Minutes of the June 17, 2014 and August 19, 2014 meetings

It was moved by Director Zonneveld, and seconded by Director Bricker, and unanimously approved, the meeting Minutes from the June 17, 2014 and August 19, 2014 meetings of the Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority as presented.

**(VOTE: YES-ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT - Alternate Chris Kapheim
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 UPPER SAN JOSE WATER CO. - Director Mike Nordstrom, **VOTE:NO- None VOTE:
 ABSTAIN- None)****

Financial Report

Randy Shilling, Assistant Treasurer, presented expenditure to budget comparison report for the period ending August 31, 2014.

It was moved by Director Kapheim, and seconded by Director Nordstrom, and unanimously approved, the expenditure to budget comparison report for the period ending August 31, 2014 as presented.

(VOTE: YES-ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT - Alternate Chris Kapheim
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 TULARE LAKE CANAL CO. - Director Walter Bricker
 UPPER SAN JOSE WATER CO. - Director Mike Nordstrom, **VOTE:NO-** None **VOTE:**
ABSTAIN- None)

MPEP Group Option Agreement: Mr. Creamer presented an overview of a DRAFT MPEP Agreement. The Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (Order R5-2013-0120) requires the Third-party Groups to develop and implement a Management Practices Evaluation Program (MPEP). The goal of the MPEP is to determine the effects, if any; irrigated agricultural practices have on first encountered groundwater under different conditions that could affect the discharge of waste from irrigated lands to groundwater in high vulnerability groundwater areas.

Mr. Creamer further reported the order allows Third-party Groups to fulfill our MPEP requirements individually or jointly with other Third-party Groups. Timelines for the development of a MPEP workplan and the implementation of the plan are given an additional year if the Third-party Group is undertaking the Group Option. It is anticipated that the Group Option MPEP would be a more cost effective than implementing the program individually, though the actual costs to develop and implement the MPEP are difficult to estimate.

With the understanding that the Group Option would be a more cost effective approach, Third-party Groups within the Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition have been meeting regularly for more than a year and consulting with technical experts to develop a broad strategy for MPEP implementation.

At the time of the Kings River Water Quality Coalition's (Kings River Coalition) Groundwater Assessment Report submittal (November 20, 2014), we must submit a copy of the agreement of the parties included in our MPEP Group. The agreement must include a description of the roles and responsibilities of each of the organizations; identification of the technical experts who will prepare and implement the workplans, along with their qualifications; the person(s) responsible for the timely

completion of the workplans and reports required by the General Order; and an organizational chart showing the reporting relationships and responsibilities of the participants in the group.

The Kings River Coalition has taken a leadership role in working with the technical consultants, developing an MPEP outline, and drafting the MPEP agreement. The Kings River Coalition also anticipates a leadership role in developing the workplan and interacting with the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

After some discussion, it was moved by Director Serrato, and seconded by Director Nordstrom, and unanimously approved, authorizing the Board President and/or his designee to execute and deliver, on behalf of the Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority, the MPEP Group Option Agreement with other Third-party Groups in the southern portion of the valley.

(**VOTE: YES**-ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT - Alternate Chris Kapheim
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 TULARE LAKE CANAL CO. - Director Walter Bricker
 UPPER SAN JOSE WATER CO. - Director Mike Nordstrom
VOTE: NO- None, **VOTE: ABSTAIN**- None)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President McKean adjourned the meeting at 12:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Orth
 Secretary/Treasurer

Approved