

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority (Authority or Kings Coalition) held September 20, 2016. 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 11:22 a.m.

DIRECTORS / ALTERNATES PRESENT (22 of 27 Members Present)

ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT - Alt Director Chris Kapheim
CONSOLIDATED IRRIGATION DISTRICT - Director Larry Cruff
CORCORAN IRRIGATION COMPANY - Alt Director Mark Unruh
CRESCENT CANAL COMPANY - Director Mark McKean
EMPIRE WEST SIDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT - Director John Howe
JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT - Alt Director Steve Stadler
JOHN HEINLEN MUTUAL WATER CO – Alt Director Ronnie Silva
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KINGS RIVER WATER DISTRICT – Director Jack Paxton
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REED DITCH COMPANY - Director Mark McKean
RIVERDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT - Director Leonard Acquistapace
SOUTHEAST LAKE WATER COMPANY - Alt Director Mark Unruh
TULARE LAKE BASIN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT – Alt Director Mark Gilkey
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UPPER SAN JOSE WATER CO. – Director Mike Nordstrom

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Athorp, KRCD	Dennis Mills, Kings Co. Water District
Diana Coderniz, Baker, Manock & Jensen	Paul Peschel, KRCD
Casey Creamer, Coordinator	Randy Shilling, KRCD
Steve Haugen, Kings River Water Assn.	Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District
Rick Hoelzel, KRCD	Cristel Tufenkjian, KRCD
Joseph D. Hughes, Klein-DeNatale-Goldner	Chad Wegley, Alta Irrigation District

ADDITION TO OR DELETION FROM THE AGENDA:

President McKean announced that the Board would go into a CLOSED SESSION to discuss a legal matter that came to the attention of the Board on September 19th. The closed session item will be added after the last agenda item.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: None

REPORTS

Casey Creamer, Coordinator, provided a status update on the East San Joaquin petition process. Staff continues to have discussions regarding the draft petition changes with other coalitions, and environmental interest groups, and the Central Valley Water Board as requested by State Board Member Dorene D'Adamo. The group gave a status update to State Board Chair Felicia Marcus and State Board staff on September 16th.

Mr. Creamer provided an update on the activities within the CV-SALTS program. Mr. Creamer reported that the CEQA, Economics, and Antidegradation analysis' needed to support the Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP) are being prepared now and will be presented to the Executive Committee during the October meeting. The current timeline for submitting the SNMP to the Central Valley Water Board is in December. After approval, the SNMP will be sent to the State Water Board by June 2017 and will be used to develop Basin Plan amendments in 2019.

Mr. Creamer also provided brief updates regarding the membership renewal process, status of data entry of member Farm Evaluation survey's, and recent outreach activities.

Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Director Zonneveld, and seconded by Director Paxton, and unanimously approved, the Minutes of the August 16, 2016 Regular Meeting as presented.

(Vote Record- YES-

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NOES- None, Abstain- None)

Acceptance of USDA/NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant(s)

Casey Creamer, Coordinator, presented an overview of the \$2,000,000 USDA-NRCS National Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) and a \$75,000 State CIG that were awarded to the Southern San Joaquin Valley MPEP Committee for which the Coalition serves as the Coordinator, Administrator, and Fiscal Agent. The tasks awarded in the State CIG are duplicative of some of the tasks in the National CIG and staff is in discussion with the NRCS office if the tasks can be refined so that both grants can be accepted.

After discussion, it was moved by Director Kamper, and seconded by Director Sills, and unanimously approved, to authorize the President or his designee to accept and enter into contract(s) for the USDA-NRCS National CIG and additionally the State CIG if the tasks can be refined.

(Vote Record- YES-

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NOES- None, Abstain- None)

Southern San Joaquin Valley MPEP Committee Draft Workplan

Casey Creamer, Coordinator, presented an overview of the process of hiring technical consultants and the development of the Management Practices Evaluation Program (MPEP) through a group agreement with 6 other coalitions. The MPEP Committee has completed a draft workplan and has approved submitting the document to the Central Valley Water Board upon approval from each participant's Board of Directors. Mr. Creamer explained that the MPEP Committee believes that early submittal of the Workplan is in the best interests of the group considering the draft changes proposed in the East San Joaquin petition and fear of precedence being set by another workplan submittal.

After discussion, it was moved by Director Zonneveld, and seconded by Director Unruh, and unanimously approved, to approve the submittal of our joint MPEP Workplan upon the approval of all of the participants of the SSJV MPEP Committee.

(Vote Record- YES-

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NOES- None, Abstain- None

Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition Special Counsel

Casey Creamer, Coordinator, presented a status update on a legal cost sharing agreement for Special Counsel that was specifically retained to represent the Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition on the East San Joaquin petition. One participant in the agreement has decided to engage with different counsel for the matter and ceased in their cost share participation at the end of September. Another participant was undecided. Staff as well as representatives from the Kern Coalition, do not believe it to be in our best interests to change special counsel in the middle of the petition process.

Staff recommends that the Coalition continue the special counsel relationship with William Thomas of Best, Best & Krieger for the East San Joaquin petition and seek to share costs with other coalitions. After discussion, it was moved by Director Stadler, and seconded by Director Kapheim, and unanimously approved, to approve the staff recommendation.

(Vote Record- YES-

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Revised Comprehensive Groundwater Quality Management Plan (CGQMP)

Casey Creamer, Coordinator, provided a brief overview of our previous submittal of the Comprehensive Groundwater Quality Management Plan (CGQMP), comments that were received from the Central Valley Water Board, and revisions that were made to address those comments.

It was moved by Director Zonneveld, and seconded by Director Nordstrom, and unanimously approved, to approve the submission of the Revised CGQMP to the Central Valley Water Board by the October 17, 2016 deadline.

(Vote Record- YES-

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NOES- None, Abstain- None)

Financial Report

Randy Shilling, Assistant treasurer, presented the expenditure to budget comparison report for the period ending August 31, 2016.

It was moved by Director Paxton, and seconded by Director Kamper, and unanimously carried, approving the expenditure to budget comparison report for the period ending August 31, 2016 as presented.

(Vote Record- YES-

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NOES- None, Abstain- None)

CLOSED SESSION – PENDING LEGAL MATTER

The Board adjourned to Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) to confer with legal counsel regarding a matter of potential litigation.

GENERAL SESSION AND RECESS

The Board reconvened to open session and President McKean reported that no reportable action was taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President McKean adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Paul G. Peschel, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: _____ on November 17, 2016
President