

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority  
Advisory Committee Notes, June 18, 2014  
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 18, 2014.

**1. Call to order**

Advisory Committee Vice Chair Brock Buche called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. Buche noted that there was not a quorum.

**Directors/Alternate Directors Present:**

Roseann Galvan, City of Selma (alternate)  
Lisa Koehn, City of Clovis (alternate)  
Brock Buche, City of Fresno (alternate)  
Steve Worthley, County of Tulare  
William Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District (alternate)

**Members Absent:**

City of Parlier  
City of Dinuba  
Kings River Conservation District  
Kings County Water District  
City of Sanger  
City of Reedley  
City of Kerman  
County of Fresno  
Alta Irrigation District  
Consolidated Irrigation District  
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control Dist.

**Interested Parties Present:**

Sue Ruiz, Easton Community Services District  
Kathy Wood McLaughlin, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners  
Shay Bakman, Bakman Water Company  
Scott Sills, Laguna Irrigation District

**Interested Parties Absent:**

Biola Community Services District  
California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Chapter  
California State University, Fresno  
Community Water Center  
City of Kingsburg  
City of Orange Cove  
City of San Joaquin  
County of Kings  
Cutler Public Utilities District  
East Orosi Community Services District  
El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust  
Fresno County Farm Bureau  
Hardwick Water Company  
James Irrigation District  
Kings River Conservancy  
Kings River Water Association

Liberty Canal Company  
Liberty Water District  
London Community Services District  
Malaga County Water District  
Mid-Valley Water District  
Orange Cove Irrigation District  
Orosi Public Utilities District  
Raisin City Water District  
Riverdale Irrigation District  
Riverdale Public Utility District  
Sanger Environmental Fund  
Self-Help Enterprises  
Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter  
Sierra Resource Conservation District  
Sultana Community Services District  
Terranova Ranch, Inc.  
UC Cooperative Extension - Fresno

**Others Present:**

Eric Osterling, KRCD  
Cristel Tufenkjian, KRCD  
Heather Bashian, Provost & Pritchard  
Michael Donaldson, Malaga County Water District  
Ben Bergquam, Assembly Member Patterson  
Jason Clarke, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control Dist.

## 2. Addition to or Deletion from the Agenda

None

## 3. Public Presentations

Interested Party Representative Sue Ruiz reported that Easton Community Services District had its last DWR facilitated community meeting. Ruiz reported that over 70 people attended.

## 4. Approval of the March 19, 2014 Meeting and May 30, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes

This item was continued until the next regularly scheduled Advisory Committee meeting.

## 5. Work Group Reports and Recommendations

*Project Work Group* – Buche called on staff member Eric Osterling to report on activities. Osterling reported that at the Special Advisory Committee and Board meetings on May 30, both entities approved the top five ranked projects to be included in a grant application for the 2014 Drought Solicitation. Osterling reported that the project proponents have met several times to develop a funding strategy for submitting a competitive grant application and funding scenarios if the grant is awarded. Osterling also provided an overview of other federal and state funding opportunities.

*Outreach Work Group*– Buche called on staff member Cristel Tufenkjian to report on activities. Tufenkjian reported that California Water Foundation grant work products are completed and that she will be contacting the individual agencies to arrange presentations and meetings.

## 6. Staff Reports

*Planning and Implementation Contracts* – Osterling reported on the status of planning and implementation contracts. Osterling referred to the contracts matrix included in the agenda packet for updates on specific projects. Osterling reported that they are close to completing Implementation Round 1. Osterling reported that KRCD's California Water Foundation grant for the Integrated Water Flow Model funding has been secured to complete the project.

*Inter-regional and Statewide Coordination* – Osterling reported that a stakeholder meeting was held for the CV-Salts Phase II ARC type model. Osterling reported that the focus area within the Kings Basin is the Alta Irrigation District and the purpose of the meeting was to provide input to the modeling team and the CV-Salts and Regional Board staff from stakeholders. Osterling reported that a Watershed Strategic Connections Workshop to discuss climate change and connecting watershed entities with Valley floor entities was held. Osterling reported that the Tulare Basin DAC draft final report is out for comment and is available on the Tulare County website.

*Public Information* – Tufenkjian reported that Central Valley is ground zero for news stories regarding agricultural pumping, groundwater overdraft and the impacts these have on subsidence and seismology.

*Legislation* – Tufenkjian reported that water bond legislation AB 2043 (Bigelow and Conway) and AB 2686 (Perea) were held in a special suspense file and are set for hearing on June 19. Tufenkjian reported that AB 1331 (Rendon) was removed by the Governance and Finance Committee Chair, Senator Wolk from the Committee's agenda due to its potential to divert the focus from her water bond bill, SB 848. Tufenkjian reported that the Governor indicated that he would take a position on the water bond once the budget was completed. Tufenkjian reported that there are two emerging groundwater bills, AB 1739 (Dickenson), which is developing with ACWA's involvement and SB 1168 (Pavley), which includes California Water Foundation's involvement. Tufenkjian reported that a drafting team has been formed to work on reconciling AB 1739 and SB 1168. Tufenkjian reported that the Brown Administration is also considering formation of a small team to create groundwater legislative language. Tufenkjian provided an overview of the principals that Kings River interests support for inclusion in groundwater legislation. Discussion followed regarding the cap-and-trade funding for forest management and what this involves including forest thinning, restoration projects, water yield, and the role for IRWMPs.

*Other* – No report

7. Kings Basin IRWMP Measurable Objectives Update

Osterling reported that this is a standing agenda item to assist with cataloging the accomplishments of Water Authority members that correspond with the Kings Basin IRWMP objectives. Osterling reported that the Kings Basin's IRMWP includes a requirement to report on the progress of the stated objectives each year in an annual report for the water year, October 1 – September 30. Osterling asked members present to review the objectives and provide any project information back to him.

8. Recommendation to approve Lanare Community Services District as an Interested Party

Tufenkjian reported that a letter and New Member/Interested Party Questionnaire was received from Lanare Community Services District requesting to join the Water Authority as an Interested Party. Tufenkjian reported that Lanare is scheduled to adopt the Kings Basin IRMWP at their September meeting, which would allow them to meet the requirements for joining. Lanare has appointed Board Member Francisco Ramirez as their Representative and Board Member Enedina Sanchez as their Alternate. Buche stated that he will report the Advisory Committee's support to the Board in response to the request by the Lanare Community Services District to join the Water Authority as an Interested Party.

9. Request to modify the IRWMP Project List

Osterling reported that KRCD's Coehlo and Gragnani Wetlands Recharge Project description was included in the agenda packet. Osterling reported that the project was considered by the Project Review Panel, which determined that the project is sufficiently consistent with the Goals and Objectives of the current IRWMP. Osterling reported that the Review Panel recommends that the project be added to the IRWMP Project List. Interested Party Representative Kathy Wood McLaughlin stated that confirmation should be made that the project is not in the NRCS reserve program. The Advisory Committee supported the recommendation.

10. Election of Advisory Committee Officers

Tufenkjian reported that the Advisory Committee conducts elections for the offices of Chair and Vice Chair yearly. Tufenkjian reported that Chair Orth will be stepping down as Chair because of the conflict with the California Water Commission meetings. Tufenkjian reported that since there is not a quorum, the Committee will need to appoint an acting chair and vice chair. Alternate Director Roseann Galvan recommended that Alternate Director Brock Buche be appointed acting chair. Director Worthley seconded the recommendation. The Committee agreed to the recommendation. Alternate Director Roseann Galvan recommended that Alternate Director Lisa Koehn be appointed acting vice chair. Director Worthley seconded the recommendation. The Committee agreed to the recommendation.

11. Other items for discussion or reporting

Director Worthley reported that the High Speed Rail Authority is looking for soil for construction of the rail and stated that this is an the opportunity for local agencies to expand groundwater recharge projects in response to this need. Discussion followed regarding radius of the soil in relationship to the project, the timing when the soil is needed, who is the contact at the Rail Authority, and the county requirements needed to receive mining exemptions. Tufenkjian reported that she will send out a survey in the Fall to reconfirm the meeting time for the Board and Advisory Committee.

12. Next Meeting Date

Buche noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting for the Advisory Committee is September 17, 2014 at 9:30 am at the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 am.