

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Advisory Committee Notes, March 16, 2016
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 March 16, 2016.

1. Call to order

Advisory Committee Chair Lisa Koehn called the meeting to order at 9:40 am. Koehn noted that there was not a quorum.

Directors/Alternate Directors Present:

David Cehrs, Kings River Conservation District
Roseann Galvan, City of Selma (alternate)
Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District (alternate)
Lisa Koehn, City of Clovis (alternate)
Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Peter Sanchez, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (alternate)

Members Absent:

City of Parlier
City of Fresno
County of Tulare
City of Sanger
Consolidated Irrigation District
County of Fresno
City of Dinuba
Alta Irrigation District
City of Kerman
Kings County Water District
Raisin City Water District

Interested Parties Present:

Charles Garabedian Jr., Malaga County Water District
Steven Pickens, Bakman Water Company
David Cehrs, El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust, Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter
Sue Ruiz, Easton Community Services District, Self Help Enterprises

Interested Parties Absent:

Armona Community Services District
Biola Community Services District
California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Chapter
California State University, Fresno
City of Kingsburg
City of Orange Cove
City of San Joaquin
Community Water Center
County of Kings
Cutler Public Utilities District
East Orosi Community Services District
Fresno County Farm Bureau
Hardwick Water Company
James Irrigation District
Kings River Conservancy
Kings River Water Association
Laguna Irrigation District
Lanare Community Services District
Liberty Canal Company
Liberty Water District
London Community Services District
Mid-Valley Water District
Orange Cove Irrigation District
Orosi Public Utilities District
Riverdale Irrigation District
Riverdale Public Utility District
Sanger Environmental Fund
Sultana Community Water Center
Sierra Resource Conservation District
Terranova Ranch, Inc.
Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners
UC Cooperative Extension - Fresno

Others Present:

Eric Osterling, KRCD
Paul Peschel, KRCD
Jim Anderson, Malaga County Water District
Ronnie Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard
Keith Wallace, Department of Water Resources
Mehdi Mizani, Department of Water Resources
Soua Lee, KRCD

2. Addition to or Deletion from the Agenda

An addition to the Agenda was requested by Director Cehrs to include an update on the Kings Integrated Water Flow Model (Kings IWFM) and the Paso Robles GSA formation. Osterling noted that an update to the IWFM will be reported under item 6a – *Planning and Implementation Contracts* and an update on the Paso Robles GSA formation will be reported under item 6f – *Other*.

3. Public Presentations

None

4. Approval of the December 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes

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

5. Work Group Report and Recommendations

Proposition 1 Strategic Planning Ad-Hoc – Osterling reported on the meeting of the Proposition 1 Strategic Planning Ad-Hoc that met at the Kings River Conservation District (KRCD) on February 23, 2016. Osterling summarized three Proposition 1 Grant Programs that were discussed at the meeting:

A. \$5 million IRWM Planning Grant Program

- Priority consideration would be given to areas that do not have an existing IRWM Plan. The maximum grant request for areas with no existing IRWM plan would be \$1 million and \$250,000 for IRWMs to update their plan.

B. \$3.4 million DAC Involvement Grant Program

- A noncompetitive grant for DAC Involvement, only one agency may submit an application on behalf of the entire funding area. There is no current deadline for submitting proposals. The Ad-Hoc suggested the following serve as priorities for the region:
 1. Create a DAC coordinator position.
 2. Develop projects that would help the region comply with requirement of AB1249.
 3. Develop projects that focus on creating outreach education and governance structures for DACs.
 4. Develop projects that can serve as models to show that DACs and non-DACs can collaborate to develop a project that has multiple benefits.

C. Stormwater Resources Planning (\$20 million) and Implementation (\$200 million) Grant Program

- Osterling reported that the Stormwater Resources Planning and Implementation Grant Program applies to any projects that capture stormwater and dry year runoff which includes banking and recharge projects. Osterling reported that originally the State Water Board was requiring a minimum 50% cost-share for the Stormwater Resources Planning Grant and it was unclear whether the KBWA would be able to cover that. However, the State Water Board revised their opinion on the funding match requirements and declared that if a significant portion of your region is DAC or EDA then the Water Board will possibly grant a partial reduction of funding match requirement. Due to misinformation from the State Water Board regarding whether or not there will be a partial waiver of funding match, the KBWA did not have sufficient time to pull together a planning grant application before the March 18 deadline. Osterling noted that any local project sponsor wishing to go after implementation funding must have a Stormwater Resources Plan or functionally equivalent plan in place. There may be an opportunity to update the Kings Basin IRWMP to be functionally equivalent but the update may not occur soon enough in order to compete for Round 1 Stormwater Resources Implementation Grant funding.

6. Staff Reports

Planning and Implementation Contracts – KRCD staff Soua Lee reported on the status of planning and implementation contracts. Lee referred to the contracts matrix included in the agenda packet and reported that City of Fresno received their retention in February 2016 for the Mini 50 grant and the Project is now closed. As part of the reporting requirement of the Mini 50 grant, City of Fresno will submit Post Performance Reports to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the next 10 years. Lee reported that under Prop 84 Round 1, the amendment request submitted by East Oroquieta Valley CSD to extend the grant contract through June 30, 2017 was executed by DWR. Under the same grant, City of Clovis' and City of Fresno's Projects are both complete; it is anticipated that Consolidated Irrigation District's and County of Fresno's Projects will conclude by the middle of the year. Under Prop 84 round 2, Lee reported that she is working with Laguna Irrigation District and DWR to submit a scope amendment to LID's Project to remove the connection to Murphy Slough and the construction of four monitoring wells. Lee also shared that she will be taking DWR staff on a site visit of EOCSD's well rehabilitation project and LID's recharge basin project. Lee reported that all work for the CWF grant will be completed by March 31, 2016 and a final report will be submitted to the CWF by April 15, 2016.

Osterling reported on an update of the Kings IWFDM project. Osterling reported that the recent SGMA legislation requires the development of a correct water budget and to accurately do so, there is a need to understand the water issues within and outside of the Kings Subbasin. The Kings IWFDM currently only covers the Kings Subbasin. Osterling reported that a couple agencies in the Tulare Lake Hydrologic region have also developed a model or are in the process of developing one. Osterling reported that the DWR Counties with Distressed Basins Grant awarded to Kings County would be used to develop a new model that would overlap with the Kings Subbasin.

Inter-regional and Statewide Coordination – Osterling reported on the recommendation of the Proposition 1 Strategic Planning Ad-Hoc group that for the DAC Involvement Grant it might be more appropriate to have an MOU between the 7 IRWMGs that describe how the region would coordinate and make decisions based on the scope and its implementation. Osterling noted that the next DAC Involvement Coordination meeting is scheduled for March 30 at 1:30pm at the Visalia Provost & Pritchard office. Osterling reported that the Roundtable of IRWM Regions scheduled a conference call on March 29 at 10:30am with new Chief of the Division of Integrated Regional Water Management, Art Hinojosa, to talk about the future of IRWM.

Public Information – Osterling reported that San Jose Mercury News contacted KRCD with an interest in the Kings Basin's work on groundwater recharge projects.

Legislation – Osterling reported on the following spot bills:

- AB 2657, Water Quality Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 – provides \$810 million for expenditures on competitive grants and loans to projects that include the implementation and adoption of integrative plans. This legislation is a spot bill that must be amended with sustentative provisions before referral to a policy committee and the Water Authority should closely monitor the legislation.
- SB 1328 (Laura), Water Quality Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 – The act specifies amounts available for projects related to stormwater management.
- AB 935 – DWR indicated that the bill would result in a \$250,000 - \$300,000 onetime Proposition 1 cost to develop regulations and programs for water projects as a separate standalone funding under the IRWM program. This is a 2-year bill.

Administrative Items – Lee announced that the Statement of Economic Interests Form 700 from Directors and Alternate Directors of the Water Authority must be file with the Authority by April 1st. Lee reported that Exhibits A, B and C of the JPA agreement has been updated to reflect the addition of Raisin City Water District as a new member; Armona CSD as a new Interested Party; and modification to the IRWM boundary map to include Armona CSD. Updated exhibits will be emailed to Members and Interested Parties.

Other – Osterling provided an update on Paso Roble’s implementation of SGMA. Paso Robles recently had two ballot initiatives; one was to form a new agency and the second was to fund that agency for administering SGMA. The ballots failed. The next step for the County is to decide whether they will take the lead in managing the groundwater for the basin or if they will let the State Water Board manage the basin. Osterling reported that the Kings Subbasin is shaping up to have 5 GSAs to cover the subbasin: CID, Kings River East Group, Kings River North Group, West Kings Basin Group, and James ID. Osterling reported that the entire basin needs to be covered by one or more GSAs and GSPs. If there are multiple GSAs with multiple GSPs, the subbasin will need to execute a coordination agreement. If there is only one GSP for the entire basin and multiple GSAs, the GSP would act as the coordination agreement.

7. Request by Pinedale County Water District to become an Interested Party

Osterling referred to item 7 in the agenda packet. Osterling reported that Pinedale County Water District has requested to become an Interested Party and would like to appoint Jason Franklin as their representative and Mark Gutierrez as their alternate representative. Pinedale County Water District has adopted a resolution to adopt the IRWMP. The Advisory Committee discussed the request and agreed that Pinedale met the requirements of an Interested Party and is located within the IRWM boundaries. The Committee supported the request.

8. Approval of Provost & Pritchard to provide services regarding preparation of a grant application and update the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Osterling referred to the fee proposal from Provost & Pritchard (P&P) in the agenda packet which provided a cost estimate of \$14,000 for the preparation of a planning application for the Prop 1 IRWM Planning Grant Program. Osterling reported that the KBWA would be able to cover the cost of preparing the planning grant application, but was unsure if the KBWA could cover up to a 50% match requirement of the grant. Osterling noted that a blend of staff time and cash was used to cover the cost share for the 2012 IRWM Plan update. Samuelian noted that there would only be one round of solicitation for the IRWM Planning Grant and if the region wants to have a storm water plan, this may be the only known state funding. Osterling reported that also impacting Prop 1 is SB 208 which states that any DAC projects less than \$1 million would have the opportunity to request advance funding. Osterling noted that he plans to present this request to select P&P to prepare the IRWM planning grant to the KBWA Board at their April 20 meeting.

9. Other Items for Discussion or Reporting

None to report

10. Next Meeting Date:

Koehn noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting for the Advisory Committee is June 15, 2016 at 9:30 am at the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Koehn
Chair

Approved

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