

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Board of Directors Meeting, July 16, 2025 at 9:30 AM
Fresno County Farm Bureau, 1274 W. Hedges, Fresno, CA 93728**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (Kings Basin Water Authority) held July 16, 2025.

1. Call to order

Chair Fast called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

Directors/Alternate Directors Present:

Chad Wegley, Alta Irrigation District (alternate)
Scott Redelfs, City of Clovis (alternate)
Rachel Nerio-Guerrero, City of Dinuba
Mike Karbassi, City of Fresno
Alma Beltran, City of Parlier
Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Esperanza Rosales, City of Sanger (alternate)
Roy Jimenez, County of Fresno (alternate)
Eddie Valero, County of Tulare
Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District (alternate)
Peter Sanchez, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (alternate)
Dennis Mills, Kings County Water District (alternate)
Mark McKean, Kings River Conservation District (alternate)
Don Cameron, Raisin City Water District

Members Absent:

City of Kerman
City of Selma
Consolidated Irrigation District

Interested Parties Present:

Sarge Green, CA State University Fresno
Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District, Reclamation District No.1606
Don Cameron, Terranova Ranch, Inc.
Steve Haze, Tulare Basin Watershed Network
Kelly Kucharski, Tanner Michaelson, Sierra Resource Conservation District

Interested Parties Absent

Armona Community Services District
Bakman Water Company
Biola Community Services District
California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Chapter
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
Easton Community Services District
El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust
Hardwick Water Company
Malaga County Water 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
McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Mid-Valley Water District
Agency
North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Orosi Public Utilities District
Pinedale County Water District
Riverdale Irrigation District
Riverdale Public Utility District
Sanger Environmental Fund
Self-Help Enterprises
Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter
Sultana Community Services District
US Cooperative Extension – Fresno

Others Present:

Anthony White, City of Fresno
Sarge Green, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

Brandy Swisher, KRCD
Brian German, KRCD

Brent Sunamoto, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
Steve Haze, Tranquillity Resource Conservation District
Ronnie Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard

Soua Vang, KRCD
Binu Brar, KRCD
Nick Torstensen, City of Clovis

2. Addition to or Deletion from the Agenda

None.

3. Public Presentations

Brandy Swisher, representing the Kings Water Alliance, provided the Board with an update on the “Ripple Effect Initiative” project. This project received grant funding through the Central Valley Community Foundation to research and inventory public water systems in the Kings Subbasin and the workforce associated with running those facilities. The goals of this project are to promote and position water-focused jobs as a viable option with professional career paths, identify training and education required to secure water-focused jobs, and close the generational gap in water sector knowledge that is being created by an aging workforce. Swisher stated she may request information from Water Authority members and interested parties to assist with information gathering for this project.

4. Consider Approval of the April 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Alternate Director Stretch, seconded by Director Beltran, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the April 16, 2025 meeting be approved as presented.

5. Member/Interested Party Report

Brent Sunamoto, District Engineer with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Basin “CF” Groundwater Recharge and Flood Protection Project that was completed with grant funds from the Proposition 1 Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Program. Sunamoto provided an overview of the improvements made to Basin “CF” and included photos to illustrate the work that was done. Basin “CF” was an existing stormwater basin located within the community of Malaga that was retrofitted to serve as a groundwater recharge and flood control basin by connecting it to a nearby Fresno Irrigation District canal. The project would increase regional groundwater recharge by approximately 1,400 acre-feet per year, expand wildlife habitat, and provide flood control and groundwater recharge benefits to the community of Malaga.

6. Director Reports

None to report.

7. Advisory Committee Report

None to report. The Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for June 18, 2025 was cancelled.

8. Staff Reports

A. Planning and Implementation Contracts – Soua Vang referred to the grant matrix in the agenda packet and provided an update on Proposition 1, Rounds 2 IRWM Implementation grant activities. The Bakman Water Company’s Nitrate Analyzer Project continues to be on hold until the construction of treatment facilities on their wells begins. The nitrate analyzers may only be installed once the treatment facilities are under construction. The City of Parlier’s Project is continuing with design and engineering work.

B. Inter-regional and Statewide Coordination – Vang reported that the Steering Committee of the IRWM Roundtable of Regions prepared a draft letter to DWR with recommendations for Proposition 4 Water-Resilience Funding. Vang provided an overview of the contents of the letter including a request to DWR to convene quarterly Roundtable and DWR working sessions to provide feedback on guidelines, scoring criteria, and timeline milestones. The letter is anticipated to be delivered to DWR in the fall.

C. Public Information – None to report.

D. Legislation – None to report.

E. Administrative Items – Vang reported that Statement of Economic Interests Form 700s were due on April 1st. A majority of Board members filed their Form 700s by the deadline. Vang stated she will follow up with Board members who have not filed their Form 700.

F. Other – None to report.

9. Request to Approve Quarterly Financial Reports

Binu Brar provided an overview of the quarterly financial reports for the period April 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025. It was moved by Director Beltran, seconded by Director Karbassi, and unanimously carried that the quarterly financial reports be approved as presented.

10. Recommendation to Approve Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget

Binu Brar provided an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget. Brar noted that the Budget was reviewed by the Finance Committee. It was moved by Director Cameron, seconded by Alternate Director McKean, and unanimously carried that the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget be approved as presented.

11. Next Meeting Date:

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Board of Directors is October 15, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Merritt
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved