

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Advisory Committee Notes, March 18, 2026 at 9:30AM
Fresno County Farm Bureau, 1274 W. Hedges, Fresno, CA 93728**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (Committee) of the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (Water Authority) held March 18, 2026.

1. Call to order

Advisory Committee Chair Sean Ray called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

Directors/Alternate Directors Present:

Scott Redelfs, City of Clovis (alternate)
George Avila, City of Dinuba (alternate)
Dejan Pavic, City of Fresno (alternate)
Jesus Gonzalez, City of Kerman (alternate)
Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Bernard Jimenez, County of Fresno (alternate)
Denise England, County of Tulare (alternate)
Phil Destaoff, Consolidated Irrigation District (alternate)
Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District (alternate)
Brent Sunamoto, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (alternate)
David Stanfield, Kings County Water District

Members Absent:

Alta Irrigation District
City of Parlier
City of Sanger
City of Selma
Kings River Conservation District
Raisin City Water District

Interested Parties Present:

Jim Maciel, Armona Community Services District
Sean Ray, Bakman Water Company
Phil Destaoff, City of Kingsburg
Steve Haze, Tulare Basin Watershed Network

Interested Parties Absent:

Armona Community Services District
Biola Community Services District
California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Chapter
California State University, Fresno
City of Orange Cove
City of Kingsburg
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
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
Malaga County Water District
McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Mid-Valley Water District
North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Orosi Public Utilities District
Pinedale County Water District
Reclamation District No. 1606
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.
US Cooperative Extension – Fresno
XIO, Inc.

Others Present

Marrabeth Martella, Sierra Resource Conservation District
Paul Sihota, Consolidated Irrigation District
Steve Haze, Tranquillity Resource Conservation District
Brandy Swisher, KRCD
Sara Besson, County of Tulare
Nick Torstensen, City of Clovis
Soua Vang, KRCD
Brian German, KRCD

2. Additions to or Deletion from the Agenda

None.

3. Public Presentations

Chair Ray called on Brandy Swisher to provide an update on the “Ripple Effect” grant project under the Kings Water Alliance group. Swisher shared that one component of the grant project is a workforce survey that is currently open. The survey is in partnership with the California Water Institute of Fresno State and ACWA is also helping to distribute the survey. Swisher invited Advisory Committee members to complete the survey and to share the survey with other organizations that have water as one of their responsibilities. The goal of the survey is to understand what water agencies need, to understand what training and education providers are doing, and to understand what people in the workforce know or don’t know about water as a professional option. Swisher left fliers with a QR code to the survey for Advisory Committee members.

4. Approval of the March 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes, September 18, 2024 Meeting Notes, and March 19, 2025 Meeting Notes

It was moved by Alternate Director Stretch, seconded by Alternate Director England, and unanimously carried that the Advisory Committee meeting minutes and notes from March 2024, September 2024, and March 2025 be approved as presented.

5. Staff Reports

A. Planning and Implementation Contracts – Soua Vang provided updates on the Proposition 1 Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant project. An amendment to extend the overall grant deadline from December 31, 2025 to April 30, 2027 was approved last November. This extension will allow time for Bakman Water Company and City of Parlier to complete their projects. Bakman Water Company’s project is delayed due to pending permit approval for one of their well that requires construction of a treatment facility. The City of Parlier was given the OK by DWR to begin project construction in March 2026.

B. Inter-regional and Statewide Coordination – Vang referred to the DWR letter in the agenda packet and shared that this letter was a response from DWR on several recommendations that the IRWM Roundtable of Regions sent regarding Prop 4 Watershed Resilience funding. Vang highlighted a few items from the letter that may be of interest or applicable to the Committee members such as the type of activities that DWR would consider to be as “technical assistance”, the type of agencies that would be eligible to apply for grant funds, and the change from a “Funding Area” competitive solicitation to a statewide competitive solicitation.

C. Legislation – Vang referred to a page in the agenda packet and reported that DWR recently released a concept survey to get public input on the Prop 4 Watershed Resilience Program. The background information on the survey included information on how DWR will potentially solicit for projects under the Prop 4 Watershed Resilience Program. The funds will be split into two rounds of funding. The first round of funding will be for implementation projects, and the second round of funding will be for Watershed Resilience planning.

D. Administrative Items – Vang provided a reminder that Statement of Economic Interests Form 700 must be filed with the Water Authority by April 1, 2026.

6. Next Meeting Date:

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Advisory Committee is June 17, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Ray
Chair

Approved