

**TULARE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION**  
**3:00 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2016**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Allen Ishida, Board Representative and Chairman  
Mark Larsen, District 3 Appointee  
Richard L. Schafer, District 5 Appointee  
Chris Kapheim, District 4 Appointee  
Pete Vander Poel, Board Alternate Representative  
Paul Boyer, District 1 Appointee  
Larry Peltzer, At-Large Appointee  
Rudy Mendoza, TCAG Representative

**Members Absent:**

Dale Brogan, District 2 Appointee  
Susana De Anda, At-Large Appointee  
Kayode Kadara, At-Large Appointee

**Staff Present:**

Carrie Crane, Tulare County Board of Supervisors  
Denise England, Water Resources Program Manager  
Marit Erickson, County Counsel

**Members of the Public Present:**

Supervisor Steve Worthley, District Four  
Michael Protose  
Vincent Salina  
Ken Bowers  
Michael Tharp  
Shane Smith  
Aaron Fukuda  
Bob Puls  
Janie Sustaita  
Michael Hickey  
Kristin Dobbin  
Others present

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:03pm.

2. Public Comment Period

None at this time.

3. Approval of July 11 and October 10, 2016 minutes

Motion for approval was made by Commissioner Schafer, second by Commissioner Kapheim. Motion approved.

4. Update on Potential Emergency Groundwater Ordinance – December 6, 2016 Board meeting

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England shared that the ordinance was slated to go to the Board on November 15, however due to the Board's very large agenda it is being pushed out to December 6, 2016.

Commissioner Schafer asked is there would be a recommendation from staff to the Board? England explained that no, there are the options and some analysis from staff on the various costs of the different options. That analysis will be likely available to review on December 1, 2016.

Commissioner Mendoza asked if there were any objections to seeing those recommendations prior to that date.

Supervisor Ishida stated the recommendation will be published prior to the meeting on Thursday afternoon the week before. Staff will send the information to the Water Commissioners once the December 6, 2016 agenda is posted.

#### 5. Update on the DAC IRWM Involvement Proposal

England gave an update on the proposal road show. The upper Kings, Kaweah, the Tule, and the Poso groups have met thus far. Upcoming meetings include the Southern Sierra, Kern and Westlands. Feedback has been generally positive. The Kaweah group has approved a letter and the Tule and Kings groups are expected to approve their respective letters soon.

#### 6. Presentation from Supervisor Steve Worthley on Temperance Flat Joint Powers Authority

Handouts were distributed to the commissioners. Supervisor Worthley gave an update on the San Joaquin Water Infrastructure Authority (Temperance Flat JPA), that was formed in the Spring of 2016. The JPA is made up of five counties: Madera, Fresno, Merced, Tulare and Kings. In addition cities, disadvantaged communities, and an Indian tribe are also represented on the JPA.

A technical advisory committee has been created by the JPA to prepare the necessary application to the California Water Commission for a portion of the \$2.7 million dollar allocation of funds for water infrastructure storage projects in the state.

The Temperance Flat storage project is anticipated to cost \$2.5 Billion dollars, and the JPA is looking to fund the project in three layers: Public Benefit portion funding from the state water bond; federal government funding from Senator Feinstein's bill; and direct beneficiaries.

The JPA also created a partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), because the BOR has spent a significant amount of money studying the Temperance Flat project and a partnership with them is important in order to utilize their expertise and the various studies they have done in the application process for the project.

The CA Water Commission is now in the process of approving the regulations, and JPA members have met often with commissioners in hopes to help simplify the process. They are requiring an economic analysis looking into 2030 and 2070, but that is not the way projects have been calculated in the past – it was based on current financial information. The JPA was unsuccessful in its attempts to remove this provision and in moving forward it is estimated it will cost \$204,000 to complete the future economic analysis the CA Water Commission is requesting.

The biggest hurdle for the JPA is currently in the area of raising money. They anticipate the costs of completing the application process for state funds to be as much as \$1 million dollars. The Temperance Flat project is the capstone for other projects, as it can capture a significant amount of water that in turn can be used for recharge, environmental projects, and water deliveries.

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Immediate needs are to raise money and complete the application process by June/July 2017.

Commissioner Mendoza inquired on how the money is currently being raised and what's the plan? Some funding has been made available from Fresno Irrigation District, Westside Irrigation District, and another entity. Funds have also been received by the dues JPA members have put in which is roughly \$100,000. The goal is to raise ultimately \$1 million from local beneficiaries.

Commissioner Kapheim commented that when the bond was approved by the voters it emphasized various storage projects like Temperance Flat being favored to be built, does that priority still exist? Supervisor Worthley shared that was the understanding, but it has taken on a new view and they are looking at funding other projects and other types of storage projects, such as below ground storage. The JPA will have to put together a very compelling application to compete with these other projects. It seems the original legislative intent of the bond is not necessary being followed, stated Commissioner Kapheim.

Supervisor Ishida stated that we have to remember that the CA Water Commission and the Water Board are appointments through the Governor and work at the Governor's pleasure. So you have pressure on them and if they want to stay on the board, they are going to cave on those political pressures.

Supervisor Worthley noted that there are other funds in the bond for disadvantaged communities that may be utilized for local projects in our area. He also noted the large public campaign for Sites Reservoir as the premier project for this funding, however they do not have a financial feasibility study which is a big component for the application of funds. Not being in competition with Sites Reservoir, both projects need to be allocated funds.

#### 7. Presentation from RMA on Tree Mortality in Southern Sierra Nevada

Tabled for January 9, 2017 meeting.

#### 8. Subcommittee Reports

None

#### 9. Staff Reports

- a. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
  - i. Implementation in Tulare County

England reported the continued progress on approving Joint Powers Agreements and other approvals to move the GSA process along. The Board will consider representation in the East Kings group, and in the East Kaweah JPA, in the Board's November 15, 2016 meeting. The East Tule JPA had some last minute attorney revisions from one of the proposed member agencies, so those are under review.

Work has started in applying for the counties in a stressed basin Prop 1 grant looking to contract with the individual agencies to utilize those funds for consulting services.

Commissioner Kapheim reported that the East Kings GSA in the process of seating their board members.

Supervisor Ishida reported that on the East Kaweah GSA there is a situation of him leaving office, so the Board will likely approve the District One Supervisor as the representative to that GSA.

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Commissioner Schafer shared updates on the Tule Subbasin. The Tule area has multiple GSAs, two of which have an overlap that needs to be resolved, which are the Tri Counties and the Alpaugh GSAs. Their Groundwater Sustainability Plan is being developed with a coordination agreement between the multiple GSAs. Last month, representatives from the CA Department of Water Resources met with the Tule Subbasin group to discuss various elements of the GSP. Discussions were favorable and the group plan to continue meetings with DWR through the process in gaining support of the plan.

Commissioner Kapheim shared that six various GSAs in the Kings Subbasin are working to get together and meet to begin negotiations of a coordination agreement.

Commissioner Larson stated that DWR is hosting a workshop on the topic of GSP regulations and that will take place November 16 at 4pm in the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building.

- b. Drought Update - Total well failures 1639, current active 633, with interim solutions, and 340 have been resolved.

## 10. Commissioners Comments

Supervisor Vander Poel stated it has been his pleasure in working with Supervisor Ishida for eight years and commended him for reinstating the County's Water Commission. He will be missed.

On behalf of the Water Commission, Commissioner Schafer presented Supervisor Ishida with a plaque that states:

*"Supervisor Allen Ishida with deep appreciation for your visionary guidance of solid leadership and uncompromising dedication in rebuilding an effective Water commission for assistance in the development of programs for the benefit of all water users in Tulare County."*

Supervisor Ishida shared the history of how the Tulare County Water Commission came about with many meetings and discussions with various disadvantaged communities in the County. Because of the reestablishment of the Water Commission, Tulare County put itself in a position to start receiving grants and funding to look at various water problems in the County. In turn it also lead to the hiring of staff, Denise England, as the water consultant to the Board of Supervisors and has served as a key role in receiving as many grants as Tulare County has received for water projects. He thanked the various Commissioners for the time they have given to serve on the Water Commission.

Various commissioners shared their praises and thanks to Supervisor Ishida for all his work on the Water Commission and as a Supervisor.

Supervisor Ishida commented that one area he wishes for the Water Commission to look at in the CV salts study and Commissioner Schafer agreed to have someone come and explain the management plans of that process.

11. Next meeting – Monday, January 9, 2017, 3:00 p.m. – Board of Supervisors Chambers

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:46pm.

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