

**TULARE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2016**

Members Present:

Allen Ishida, Board Representative and Chairman
Dale Brogan, District 2 Appointee
Mark Larsen, District 3 Appointee
Richard L. Schafer, District 5 Appointee
Chris Kapheim, District 4 Appointee
Susana De Anda, At-Large Appointee
Pete Vander Poel, Board Alternate Representative
Paul Boyer, District 1 Appointee
Larry Peltzer, At-Large Appointee

Members Absent:

Roger Everett, At-Large Appointee
Rudy Mendoza, TCAG Representative

Staff Present:

Julieta Martinez, Tulare County Board of Supervisors
Denise England, Water Resources Program Manager
Marit Erickson, County Counsel

Members of the Public Present:

Michael Tharp
Michael Hickey
Bob Irvine
Vincent Salinas
Michael P.
Nilsa Gonzalez
Kim Loeb
Kevin McCusker
Tricia Stever Blattler
Aaron Fukuda
Kristin Dobbin
K. Dale Sally
Shane Smith
Richard Garcia
Michael K. Reed

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:01pm.

2. Public Comment Period

None at this time.

3. Approval of January 11, 2016 minutes

Motion to approve by Commissioner Schafer, second by Commissioner Larsen. Motion approved.

4. Update on the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority

Chairman Ishida gave an update on the JPA composed of five San Joaquin Valley Counties. Each County has contributed \$50,000 each to carry their efforts forward. The reason for the formation was to advocate for the Temperance Flat Project. There was a meeting last week and things are moving forward.

Commissioner Larsen asked who the Counties were and was informed that they were Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Merced County.

Commissioner Boyer asked if it would be a good idea to have a representative from the Friant Water Authority present at future meetings to elaborate on the Temperance Flat project.

Chairman Ishida stated that it would be an option after the feasibility study is released and there is a better understanding of requirements.

Commissioner Brogan clarified and shared that the draft of the study had been released. He did not recall much content encouraging projects such as Temperance Flat. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Boyer suggested finding a way to receive the same update that irrigation district might have already heard.

Commissioner Larsen stated that they had seen a power point presentation but not the full report.

5. Subcommittee Reports

a. Joint Groundwater Subcommittee (APAC & Water Commission)

Edward Needham was present to give a brief update. The joint subcommittee met and approved a motion to go before the Board of Supervisors. Two committee members abstained as they were not in agreement with the motion. As of now, the joint groundwater subcommittee will cease to meet since they finalized the research they needed and came to a conclusion.

Commissioner Peltzer asked if the Water Commission was going to review the motion from the subcommittee because he was not in agreement and felt there was a need for further discussion.

Staff informed the Commission that the item would be on the agenda in March.

Chairman Ishida asked if there was information on new land coming into production.

Edward Needham stated that the data showed that agricultural land is losing property to new development by cities.

Marit Erikson, County Counsel, clarified and shared that the subcommittee moved a recommendation to use the Stanislaus County ordinance as a model to proceed with one for this County (Tulare).

Chairman Ishida asked that the matter be placed on the next agenda.

6. Staff Reports

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

Denise England continues to meet with various groups in regards to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Commissioner Brogan gave an update on the Delano Earlimart Irrigation District. They are making a request for a basin boundary modification that allows them to bring in 7,000 acres that is currently in Kern County into the Tule Sub-basin. It is more convenient for growers so that they only deal with one Sub-basin. He also mentioned that there is one other potential basin boundary modification in the Tule Sub-basin.

Commissioner Schafer stated that there will be 5 GSA's covering the entire Tule Sub basin.

The Greater Kaweah MOU parties are working on a schedule to identify milestones/timelines and working on a JPA agreement to form a GSA.

Commissioner Kapheim shared that their group has been working on boundaries for the last 3 months. They will hold a public hearing in Dinuba in the month of March to move forward on the intent to form a GSA. There will be 5 GSA's in the Kings Sub basin.

b. Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Communities Study

Denise England shared that the Stakeholder Oversight Advisory Committee met last Monday evening. They received an update on SGMA and identified tasks for the next meeting which most likely will take place in April. The intent is to look at recommendations that came out of the study.

c. Drought update

As of February 1st there were a total of 1710 reported well failures. There are 927 current active well failures, 579 interim solutions, and 204 resolved.

d. DAC IRWM Involvement RFP

Denise England stated that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a Request for Proposal under Proposition One. The Tulare Lake Basin hydrologic region covers four counties and was allocated \$3.4 million to provide for improvements in disadvantaged communities. DWR has requested that a single proposal be submitted for the entire regions funding. The disadvantaged community study is a good starting point and framework.

7. Commissioners Comments

Commissioner De Anda asked if there were any new updates on the Well Construction Ordinance.

Nilsa Gonzalez informed the Commission that the outreach meetings originally scheduled for February have been pushed back. She will provide an update once new dates are confirmed.

8. Next meeting – Monday, March 14, 2016, 3:00 p.m. – Board of Supervisors Chambers

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:02pm.

