



MANAGING RESOURCES FOR A BETTER FUTURE

DIRECTORS
NICK BRUNO, PRESIDENT
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BRIAN PARTRIDGE
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JULIA D. BERRY, GENERAL MANAGER/SECRETARY
MIKE CUTTONE, ASSISTANT TREASURER
BRIAN EHLERS, DISTRICT ENGINEER
LAUREN D. LAYNE, LEGAL COUNSEL

**MEETING OF THE
ROOT CREEK WATER DISTRICT
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

**December 9, 2019 at 11:00 A.M.
The Lodge at Riverstone
370 Lodge Road South
Madera, California 93636**

(or immediately following the Root Creek Water District Board of Directors meeting)

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

(The Board may add an item to the agenda if, upon a two-thirds vote, the Board finds that there is a need for immediate action on the matter and the need came to the attention of the District after the posting of this Agenda.)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public may address the Board on any matter related to the District that is not included on the Agenda. Comments are limited to five (5) minutes per person.

4. POTENTIAL CONFLICT(S) OF INTEREST

(Any Board member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse himself or herself from discussing and voting on the matter.)

5. APPROVAL OF GSA MEETING MINUTES – Review and take action to approve minutes

- a. RCWD GSA Minutes from November 11, 2019

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(Members of the Board or Staff may provide comment on any timely matter related to the District that is not included on the agenda.)

7. Staff Report

- a. District Engineer
- b. General Manager
 - i. Comment letters RE: GSP
 - ii. Madera Subbasin Coordination Agreement

8. ADJOURN

- Items on the Agenda may be taken in any order.
- Action may be taken on any item listed on the Agenda.
- Writings relating to open session Agenda items that are distributed to members of the Board of Directors will be available for inspection at the District office, excluding writings that are not public records or are exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Acts.
- ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
A person with a qualifying disability under the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 may request the District to provide a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in any public meeting of the District. Such assistance includes appropriate alternative formats for the agendas and agenda packets used for any public meetings of the District. Requests for such assistance and for agendas and agenda packets shall be made in person, by telephone, or by written correspondence to the District at (559) 970-8778 or P.O. Box 27950, Fresno, California 93729, at least 48 hours before a District meeting.



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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Root Creek Water District
Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
held on
November 11, 2019**

1. Call to Order:

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing for the Root Creek Water District GSA was called to order at 11:03 a.m. at the Lodge at Riverstone by President Nick Bruno. Board members present were Nick Bruno, Jeff Coulthard, Lynn Hoffman, Dan Hoffman (entered at 11:11 am), Amber Mendoza and Brian Partridge. Board members absent: Toni Scarborough. Members of the public included Julia Berry, Jesse Johnson, Mike Kaweah, Lauren Layne, Brian Ehlers and Al Solis.

The Public Hearing addressed adoption of the Root Creek Water District GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“the Plan”). Staff outlined additions made to the draft Plan including the addition of the Riverstone Project to the Plan and the addition of one groundwater monitoring site near Avenue 12.

There was comment received by Mr. Ken Schmidt and conveyed by the District Engineer, Brian Ehlers, that an evaluation of the aquifer is missing in the Plan as it pertains to zones above and below the Corcoran Clay. Staff reported that a comment letter was received by the Wonderful Company.

The Public Hearing was closed at 11:09a.m.

2. Adoption of the Madera Subbasin Coordination Agreement

A motion was made by Director Partridge, seconded by Director L. Hoffman, to adopt the Madera Subbasin Coordination Agreement as to form, authorizing minor changes with approval from Legal Counsel. The motion carried.

3. Adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the RCWD GSA

Director Partridge made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the approval/adoption of the Plan for the RCWD GSA and submittal of the same to the California Department of Water Resources, seconded by Director L. Hoffman, and the motion carried.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4. **Additions to the Agenda:**

There were no additions made to the agenda.

5. **Public Comment:**

Lauren Layne introduced Jesse Johnson, with Baker Manock and Jensen Law Firm.

6. **Potential Conflicts of Interests:**

There were no conflicts identified.

7. **Approval of GSA Meeting Minutes:**

Director Partridge made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2019 board meeting, seconded by Director Coulthard, and the motion carried.

8. **Comments on the Madera Joint GSP**

Director Partridge made a motion to ratify the comments submitted on the Madera Subbasin Joint GSP, seconded by Director L. Hoffman, and the motion carried.

9. **Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

10. **Adjournment:**

Director L. Hoffman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Partridge, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 PM.

Julia D. Berry, District Secretary



November 15, 2019

Member Agencies

Bakman Water Company
Biola Community Services District
City of Clovis
City of Fresno
City of Kerman
County of Fresno
Fresno Irrigation District
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
Garfield Water District
International Water District

Via U.S. Mail and E-Mail (E-mail Address)

Ms. Julia Berry,
Rook Creek Water District
P.O. Box 27950
Fresno, CA 93729

Board of Directors

Chairman Jerry Prieto, Jr.
Fresno Irrigation District
Vice-Chairman Brian Pacheco
County of Fresno
Steve Pickens
Bakman Water Company
Jose Flores
City of Clovis
Lee Brand
City of Fresno
Rhonda Armstrong
City of Kerman
Karl Kienow
Garfield Water District

RE: Root Creek Water District Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dear Ms. Berry:

The North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NKGSA) consists of member agencies including Fresno Irrigation District, the cities of Fresno, Clovis and Kerman, Fresno County, Bakman Water Company, Biola Community Services District, International Water District, Garfield Water District, and the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. The NKGSA also consists of disadvantaged communities, private well owners, and other landowners. The Root Creek Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) borders the NKGSA boundary. The NKGSA submits this letter to the Root Creek Water District (RCWD) regarding the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan prepared for purposes of the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The NKGSA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the RCWD GSA's draft GSP. The deadline for public comment was on Monday, November 11, 2019, at the public hearing where the RCWD GSA considered adoption of the draft GSP. While the comment period has closed, the NKGSA wanted to provide comments regarding concerns associated with the draft GSP. The NKGSA is concerned about the RCWD governing board adopting the draft GSP and requests the RCWD board to consider the issues described below, and summarized as follows:

Internet

www.NorthKingsGSA.org

Mail

North Kings GSA
c/o Fresno Irrigation District
2907 S. Maple Ave.
Fresno, CA 93725

Phone

559-233-7161

About NKGSA: The North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency is a Joint Powers Authority formed in December 2016. Composed of local public agencies and others engaged through binding agreements, the NKGSA is the governing body of a portion of the Kings Subbasin (DWR Bulletin 118, 5-22.08) in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014. NKGSA members are Bakman Water Company, Biola Community Services District, City of Clovis, City of Fresno, City of Kerman, County of Fresno, Fresno Irrigation District, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, Garfield Water District, and International Water District.

- The RCWD GSA draft GSP indicates there is approximately 17,200 AF of historical and current inflow and the inflow continues to be included in the 2040 water budget, which the RCWD GSA identifies as their sustainability goal.
- The GSP infers the RCWD GSA encroach on approximately 17,200 AF of water per year within the NKGSA's boundary which drains into the Madera Subbasin and the Root Creek Water District GSA boundary.
- NKGSA, including its member agencies and stakeholders, intends to capture and recapture water (as has been historically and currently occurring), whether surface water, groundwater, or recharge water, which the Root Creek Water District's draft GSP indicates is flowing into the Madera Subbasin and the Root Creek Water District boundary and is a benefit to the Madera Subbasin and the Root Creek Water District through 2040. This practice is unlawful, inequitable and inappropriate by the Madera Subbasin and the Root Creek Water District.
- Time remains to correct these deficiencies prior to the January 31, 2020, deadline for submitting the GSP to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

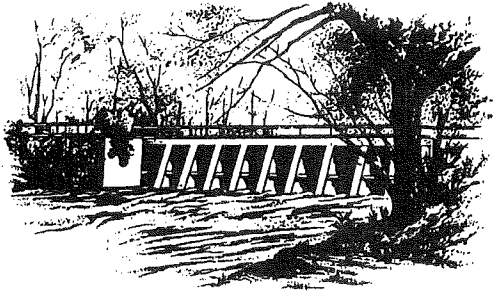
Ultimately, the Root Creek Water District GSA's draft GSP contains deficiencies arising to a definition of sustainability in the RCWD that is improperly reliant on boundary flows from the NKGSA, which may vary but more importantly, that are not abandoned by the NKGSA nor its member agencies or stakeholders. Accordingly, the Root Creek Water District GSA must not make claim to that water.

The NKGSA looks forward to continuing to collaborate with the Madera Subbasin GSAs, including Root Creek Water District GSA, on the correction of the concerns contained in this letter. Please contact me at (559) 233-7161 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Haseyo. Chauhan

307 Gary R. Serrato
Executive Officer



YOUR MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE - WATER

OFFICE OF
FRESNO
IRRIGATION DISTRICT

TELEPHONE (559) 233-7161
FAX (559) 233-8227
2907 S. MAPLE AVENUE
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93725-2208

November 18, 2019

Via U.S. Mail and E-Mail (E-Mail Address)

Ms. Julia Berry, General Manager
Rook Creek Water District GSA
P.O. Box 27950
Fresno, CA 93729

Re: Root Creek Water District GSA Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dear Ms. Berry:

The Fresno Irrigation District (FID) submits this letter to the Root Creek Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (RCWD GSA) regarding the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) prepared for purposes of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Leading our region in water resources management, FID is a founding member of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NKGSA), which is adjacent to the Madera Subbasin. The NKGSA is one of the seven groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) within the Kings Subbasin. Other NKGSA members include the cities of Fresno, Clovis, and Kerman, Fresno County, Bakman Water Company, Biola Community Services District, International Water District, Garfield Water District, and the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. FID makes up a significant portion of the NKGSA and consists of disadvantaged communities, private well owners, and other landowners. Since 1920, FID has proudly delivered water to agricultural and urban communities within Fresno County. Today, FID encompasses over 245,000 acres of prime farmland and municipal areas, including the cities of Fresno and Clovis. As one of the premier irrigation districts in the Central Valley, FID is extensively involved in a host of local, state and federal water issues.

FID appreciates the opportunity to comment on the RCWD GSA draft GSP. The deadline for public comment was on Monday, November 11, 2019, at the public hearing where the RCWD GSA considered adoption of the draft GSP. While the comment period has closed, FID wanted to provide comments regarding concerns associated with the draft GSP. FID is concerned about the RCWD GSA governing board adopting the draft GSP and requests the RCWD GSA board to consider the issues described below, and summarized as follows:

- The RCWD GSA draft GSP indicates there is approximately 17,200 AF of historical and current inflow and the inflow continues to be included in the 2040 water budget, which the RCWD GSA identifies as their sustainability goal.
- The GSP infers the RCWD GSA encroach on approximately 17,200 AF of water per year from within FID's and the NKGSA's boundary which drains into the Madera Subbasin and the RCWD GSA boundary.
- FID and the NKGSA, including its other member agencies and stakeholders, intends to capture and recapture water (as has been historically and currently occurring), whether surface water, groundwater, or recharge water, which the RCWD GSA's draft GSP indicates is flowing into the Madera Subbasin and the RCWD GSA's boundary and is a benefit to the Madera Subbasin and the RCWD GSA through 2040. This practice is unlawful, inequitable and inappropriate by the Madera Subbasin and the RCWD GSA.
- Time remains to correct these deficiencies prior to the January 31, 2020, deadline for submitting the GSP to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Ultimately, the RCWD GSA's draft GSP contains deficiencies arising to a definition of sustainability in the RCWD GSA that is improperly reliant on boundary flows from FID and the NKGSA, which may vary but more importantly, that are not abandoned by FID nor the NKGSA nor its other member agencies or stakeholders. Accordingly, the Root Creek Water District GSA must not make claim to that water.

FID and the NKGSA look forward to continuing to collaborate with the Madera Subbasin GSAs, including RCWD GSA, on the correction of the concerns contained in this letter. Please contact me at (559) 233-7161 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Bill Stretch
General Manager

cc: Madera Irrigation District GSA
Madera County GSA
City of Fresno - Michael Carbajal
County of Fresno – Bernard Jimenez