

# South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

## Regular Meeting Minutes

---

March 20, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.  
429 C Street, Lemoore, CA 93245

---

### Members Present:

Joe Neves, County of Kings (Chair)  
Ceil Howe, Jr., Empire West Side Irrigation District (Vice Chair)  
Michael Newton, Stratford Irrigation District  
Patricia Matthews – City of Lemoore (alternate 5:45 PM)

### Members Absent

Scott Mercer, Stratford Public Utility District

### Others Present:

Amer Hussain, Geosyntec (Technical Consultant)  
Johnny Gailey (Administrative Consultant)  
Ken Richardson (Legal Counsel)  
Doug Freitas  
Julie Freitas  
Gary Quintel  
Keith Freitas

Joseph Fernandes  
Jay Weiner  
Antonio Solario (WWD)  
Steve Jackson  
Amanda Peisch Darby (DWR)

---

#### Item 1: CALL TO ORDER

**Presenter:** Chair Neves

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m., and the Roll was called to establish a quorum.

#### Roll Call:

Director Neves: Present  
Director Gornick: Absent  
Director Howe: Present  
Director Newton: Present  
Director Mercer: Absent

---

#### Item 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**Presenter:** Chair Neves

#### Discussion:

None.

#### Actions:

None.

---

#### Item 3: ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

**Presenter:** Chair Neves

#### Discussion:

None.

#### Actions:

None.

---

**Item 4:**            PUBLIC COMMENT**Presenter:**     Chair NevesDiscussion:

None.

Actions:

None.

---

**Item 5:**            APPROVAL OF MINUTES**Presenter:**     Chair NevesDiscussion:

Minutes were presented for SFKGSA Regular Board Meeting held on February 20, 2025

Actions:

It was moved by Director Howe and seconded by Director Newton to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

*(Ayes: Directors Neves, Howe and Newton; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Gornick, Mercer)*

---

**Item 6:**            DIRECTOR REPORTS**Presenter:**     DirectorsDiscussion:

Director Newton reported that the Grower Advisory Committee was meeting regularly and doing good work,

Actions: None

---

**Item 7:**            FINANCIAL REPORTS**Presenter:**     Johnny GaileyDiscussion:

Financial Reports were presented for FY2024-2025 Through February 28, 2025. The board was asked to accept the financial reports.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Newton and seconded by Director Howe to accept the financial reports as presented.

*(Ayes: Directors Neves, Howe, Matthews, and Newton; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Mercer)*

---

**Item 8:**            FORM 700**Presenter:**     Johnny GaileyDiscussion:

The Board was reminded that Form 700 is due to be filed electronically by April 1, 2025

Actions:

None.

---

**Item 9:**            CHASE CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION LETTER**Presenter:**     Johnny GaileyDiscussion:

The Board was presented with and Authorization Letter to allow Johnny Gailey to establish a credit card with Chase Bank and remove all other authorized users and cards from the account.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Howe and seconded by Director Newton to approve the Authorization Letter to Chase Bank.

*(Ayes: Directors Neves, Howe, Matthews, and Newton; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Mercer)*

---

**Item 10:**      MLJ ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATED MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT AND SAAS CONTRACT      **Presenter:**      Johnny Gailey

Discussion:

The Board was asked to approve an updated Master Services Agreement and Software as a Service (SaaS) Contract with MLJ Environmental providing continued support for the SFKGSA Well Registration (Watermark Dashboard) the SaaS contract would be continued at \$3,400 per month plus hourly rates for additional support and outreach services.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Howe and seconded by Director Newton to Approve the updated Master Services Agreement and Software as a Service contract with MLJ Environmental.

*(Ayes: Directors Neves, Howe, Matthews, and Newton; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Mercer)*

---

**Item 11:**      LETTER INSUPPORT OF SFKGSA JPA AMENDMENT      **Presenter:**      Chair Neves

Discussion:

The Board was asked to approve a letter in support of the SFKGSA JPA Amendment that would add 2 seats to the Board.

Actions:

Item was Tabled by Chair Neves

---

**Item 12:**      GROWER COMMITTEE REPORT      **Presenter:**      Doug Freitas

Discussion:

Doug Freitas reported on the progress of development of groundwater allocation policy. Discussion is ongoing and productive. Doug expressed concern about the way the Native Yield would be allocated. He noted that Amer is doing good work in moving the discussion forward. Recharge discussion is ongoing.

Actions:

None

---

**Item 13:**      ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT REPORT      **Presenter:**      Johnny Gailey

Discussion:

Johnny Gailey gave an update on the Tulare lake subbasin status with the State Board. Both DWR and the State Board continue to not communicate with SFKGSA or any other GSA in the Tulare Lake subbasin. There is now a draft coordination agreement that has been circulated for input. Johnny reported on a Regional Subsidence meeting held at the Lower Tule office. Johnny reported meeting with Vince Fong to discuss Subsidence monitoring funding. Johnny gave an update on the Well Registration progress, Noting that the next workshop will be held March 26, 2025 at Lemoore College starting at 10AM.

Actions:

None

---

**Item 14:**      GEOSYNTEC REPORT      **Presenter:**      Amer Hussain

Discussion:

Amer reported on meetings held with the State Board staff in the Tule subbasin where the State Board is looking to monitor the implementation period before returning a Basin to DWR. Amer presented the progress of the development of Groundwater Allocations and pumping cap policies. These policies will be backed up by Triggers

and management actions to avoid undesirable results as defined in the GSP. The draft allocation policy is currently on version 6. The Recharge policy is very close, but the grower committee wanted 1 more look at it before approving the policy.

Actions:

**Item 15:** NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion:

Actions:

**Item 16:** ADJOURNMENT