



02/18/2025  
City Council Regular Meeting

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711 West Cinnamon Drive • Lemoore, California 93245 • (559) 924-6744

## Staff Report

**Item No: 4-3**

**To: Lemoore City Council**

**From: Marisa Avalos, City Clerk / Executive Assistant**

**Date: February 10, 2025**

**Meeting Date: February 18, 2025**

**Subject: Appointment of Lemoore Planning Commissioners**

**Strategic Initiative:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe & Vibrant Community            | <input type="checkbox"/> Growing & Dynamic Economy         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscally Sound Government           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operational Excellence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community & Neighborhood Livability | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable                    |

**Proposed Motion:**

Approve the appointments to the Planning Commission, as recommended by Mayor Matthews.

**Subject/Discussion:**

The Planning Commission currently has three (3) vacancies. The vacancies were posted at City Hall, Cinnamon Municipal Complex, and the City website. Four (4) applications were received. The applicants are:

Ray Etchegoin  
Paul Gonzales  
Barbara Hill  
Ron Meade  
Patrick Moorman

Mayor Matthews is recommending appointments of Ray Etchegoin, Ron Meade, and Barbara Hill. Concurrence of at least two Council Members is required for the appointments to be official.

**Financial Consideration(s):**

None. The appointments are volunteer positions.

*"In God We Trust"*

**Alternatives or Pros/Cons:**

**Pros:**

- Fills vacancies on the Planning Commission.

**Cons:**

- None noted.

**Alternative:**

- Council could choose to discuss other applicants for appointment.

**Commission/Board Recommendation:**

Not applicable.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Approve the appointments to the Planning Commission, as recommended by Mayor Matthews.

**Attachments:**

- ☐ Resolution:
  - ☐ Ordinance:
  - ☐ Map
  - ☐ Contract
  - ☒ Other
- List: Applications

**Review:**

- ☒ City Attorney
- ☒ City Clerk
- ☒ City Manager
- ☒ Finance

**Date:**

- 02/11/2025
- 02/10/2025
- 02/10/2025
- 02/11/2025



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Fresno, California 93725

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January 31, 2025

Mr. Frank Rivera, Public Works Director  
City of Lemoore  
711 West Cinnamon Drive  
Lemoore, CA 93245

Re: City of Lemoore Draft 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP)

Dear Mr. Rivera:

The Kings River Conservation District (KRCD) service area covers approximately 1.2 million acres within portions of Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties and encompasses the City of Lemoore. In addition, KRCD serves as the sponsor for the federal flood control project along the Kings River, known as the Kings River Channel Improvement Project, which includes 140 miles of federal levees and associated channels protecting adjacent lands, railroads, highways and towns. KRCD appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the City of Lemoore Draft 2020 UWMP. Our comments focus on the potential impacts concerning infrastructure and operational coordination as the UWMP is implemented.

Since the City of Lemoore municipal supply well field is directly adjacent to the federal levees operated and maintained by KRCD, continued collaboration to monitor and mitigate subsidence of the federal levees is necessary. Additional protocols and plans for the protection of the groundwater wells and the adjacent levees should also be addressed in the UWMP. Any future expansion of the well field or deepening of the wells should be coordinated with KRCD.

Lastly, the UWMP's groundwater supply and pumping values need to be developed in collaboration with the overlying groundwater sustainability agency. Since the passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in 2015, local agencies have worked to characterize and investigate the sustainability of groundwater in their respective regions. Since the UWMP states that the City of Lemoore's only source of municipal supply is groundwater, coordination with SGMA agencies is necessary to understand the local impact such as subsidence.

KRCD is committed to supporting local entities within our service area to manage critical water supplies while ensuring that regional infrastructure, easements, and operations are managed in a way that benefits all stakeholders. We appreciate your consideration of these comments and look forward to continued collaboration on the development of the UWMP.

Sincerely,

David M. Merritt,  
General Manager

DMM/CG/sjs

Cc: Jeff Cowart, PE – QK Inc.

L25-0014  
File: 300.67

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**KINGS  
COUNTY  
WATER  
DISTRICT**

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RE: *City of Lemoore 2020 Urban Water  
Management Plan Update Comments*

Chip Mello  
Chair

Paul Gillum  
Vice-Chair

Andrew Brazil

Joe Freitas

Michael Murray

Dennis Mills  
Secretary

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200 North Campus Dr.  
Hanford, CA 93230  
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Ms. Avalos,

Kings CWD appreciates the City of Lemoore, through your consultant QK Inc, providing the District a copy of your updated 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and requesting comment. In reviewing the UWMP the primary concern became the amount of subsidence occurring near the Kings River and how that could relate to Lemoore's wells in the area. Most Kings County municipal wells pump from below the Corcoran Clay because of local quality issues, and pumping from the aquifer below the Corcoran Clay has been linked to subsidence. Kings CWD staff has also received reports from landowners in that area that the Lemoore wells near the Kings River rarely shutoff. From a review of subsidence information on DWR's SGMA Data Viewer, it appears that there has been over 3.5 feet of subsidence near the Kings River in the area of the Lemoore wells since June 2015. The District's concern relates to how subsidence might affect the Kings River's floodwater conveyance capacity and also whether there might be impacts to surface water right holders.

The District would suggest the following:

- That a subsidence evaluation from a technically qualified professional be included in the UWMP update.
- That construction information (well completions reports) for Lemoore groundwater wells be included in the document.
- That annual pumped volumes for Lemoore groundwater wells be included in the document.
- That a discussion of groundwater pumping and anticipated local GSA pumping limits be included in the document. It is understood that GSA limits have not yet been adopted, but there is almost no discussion of how Lemoore would address limits related to existing or future demands.
- That clarifying sections be developed related to the second system that is operated by the City for the Olam Tomato Processing plant. Also, the City is not listed as a water wholesaler and that seems inconsistent, unless more information can be provided about that arrangement.
- That clarifying sections be developed related to other large industrial users of Lemoore water, like Leprino. It is understood that business is currently transitioning, but they don't seem to be discussed in this document. Given the size of that plant, they should be mentioned and more information provided on that arrangement as well.

- That water quality testing per well be included in the report to provide perspective. Describing water quality sampling of a blended system can obscure trends that are more apparent from the individual well samples.

If you have questions or concerns, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Dennis Mills

KCWD General Manager

Cc: Ray Carlson, KCWD Attorney  
Chuck Kinney, MKR GSA Manager  
Steve Haugen, Kings River Watermaster

Chip Mello, KCWD Board President  
Johnny Gailey, SFK GSA Manager  
David Merritt, KRCD Manager





**SOUTH FORK KINGS**  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

321 C Street  
Lemoore, CA 93230  
PH 559.906.229  
[www.southforkking.org](http://www.southforkking.org)

February 17, 2025

Marisa Avalos  
City Clerk  
City of Lemoore  
324 C Street  
Lemoore, CA 93230

**Subject: Proposal to Prepare  
2024 SFK GSA GSP**

Dear Ms. Avalos:

The South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SFK GSA or GSA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the updated 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). The SFK GSA appreciates the City acknowledging the important role that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) will have managing groundwater supply and forthcoming use restrictions. However, with the Tulare Lake Subbasin under State Water Resources Control Board review, it is critical that water agencies prepare coordinated plans for groundwater use. We understand that this is an update to the 2020 UWMP, however SGMA implementation has rapidly evolved since then. We support the comments presented in the Kings County Water District (KCWD) February 14, 2025 comment letter. In addition, we have provided our comments below to begin further discussions with the City. At this time, we are requesting the City delay approval of the updated UWMP until further coordination with the GSA.

The SFK GSA presents the following comments to the updated UWMP:

- The UWMP needs to clarify that the total amount of groundwater pumping reported by the City is inclusive of the municipal pumping and the second system operated for the Olam Tomato Processing Plant.
- The UWMP states that there are six active groundwater wells (4 in the City and 2 in the North. However, Figure 3-3 seems to indicate that as many as 14 wells may exist. The UWMP should list all the City wells with construction details and clarify the status of each well. For any inactive wells, the criteria for operating those wells at a later date should be presented.
- The existing land use data presented in Table 2.2 requires additional clarification. It is unclear what the multiple columns of “developed” lands are referencing.

- SFK GSA shares KCWD's concern regarding subsidence near the Kings River and across the City. We recommend that the City coordinate with the GSA to include a preliminary subsidence evaluation in the UWMP.
- The GSA concurs with KCWD's comment that additional water quality testing data be included in the UWMP. Water quality is one of the sustainable management criteria (SMC) required by SGMA. Additional data from the City would be beneficial to the GSA in managing groundwater resources and achieving sustainability.
- We understand that the City wastewater is being used for agricultural benefit but outside the Subbasin. The GSA would like to enter into discussions with the City to determine the feasibility of utilizing that water within the GSA.
- The GSA is concerned about the amount of water pumped by the City across the developed acres. Our initial review indicates that these values will likely be higher than planned groundwater allocations with increased water use projected for the future (Table 4-2).
- The GSA is concerned with the calculation for water supply in Section 6.9 as it seems to imply a potential change in aquifer storage above the values currently in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). We understand the importance of providing adequate supply to the City, so these values require additional coordination.
- The GSA is also concerned about the lack of policies or future projects in the UWMP to reduce groundwater demand. In a critically overdrafted subbasin, all water users are being asked to identify policies and projects that increase water supply or reduce water demand.

## **CLOSURE**

The SFK GSA appreciates the time and effort that has gone into the preparation of the updated 2020 UWMP and it is not the intent of these comments to hinder the process. But the GSA believes that additional coordination is necessary, and we look forward to working together to resolving the concerns identified. We will continue to work closely with the City to provide the best groundwater management plans for stakeholders in the area.



Comments on Updated 2020 UWMP  
February 17, 2025  
Page 3

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 559.906.6229.

Sincerely,

  
John Gailey

John Gailey  
General Manager

cc: Joe Neves, SFK GSA Chair  
Frank Gornick, SFK GSA Member  
Patrica Matthews, SFK GSA Alternate  
Ken Richardson, Peltzer & Richardson  
David Merritt, KRCD  
Dennis Mills, KCWD  
Steve Haugen, Kings River Watermaster

# Comments Lemoore updated 2020 UWMP

Final Audit Report

2025-02-17

Created:	2025-02-17
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## "Comments Lemoore updated 2020 UWMP" History



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