



MEETING NOTES

LOCATION: 5917 KNUDSEN DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
DATE: 8/29/2024
TIME: 5:30 -8:30 PM

I. ATTENDEES

Present:

- Arshdeep Singh, Santokh Dhillon, Harvey Singh and our Bakersfield Growers - Punjabi American Growers Group
- SWRCB- Board and Staff
- Local GSA's

Overall growers plus organizers attendance were around 300.

II. MEETING NOTES

SWRCB staff presented Kern Basin overview and their recommendation as GSP submitted by basin deemed inadequate, few key notes are below:

- 64% of total available water use is for AG.
- Overdraft by basin – 925000acft. Which is equivalent to 300000 acres of ag land.
- SWRCB will add to already existing GSA expenses -\$300/well and \$40/ac to fees/penalties every year for growers in the basin.
- A probation hearing in front of SWRCB will happen in Sacramento on Feb 20th, 2025.

In simple words, Kern basin will have **water shortage for 300000 acres of land. 200000 acres is white land** in the basin as per the GSP submitted to SWRCB. So, this water shortage will impact all white land (no district water area) plus another 100000 acres of land which get surface water.

PAGG Input- I questioned SWRCB staff and board again about the path forward for the impacted land. As usual did not get any satisfactory answer. But this time Staff mentioned to us on 1-1 discussion on side that due to our continuous push they are setting up a team and in conversation with CDFA and DWR to find a solution to this problem. They will have a separate meeting with us soon. I talked to Sec Karen Ross and staff on this issue during the 8/26 meeting at Woodland. Just to confirm I got an email from Thea Rittenhouse (CDFA) on 9/4/2024 that SWRCB reached out to them for discussion about this issue.

Thanks all for your support!

Arshdeep Singh

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