

MINUTES OF THE FRESNO COUNTY LOCAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

November 1, 2024

The Fresno County Local Working Group met at the Kerman Community Center for an in-person and virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams meeting protocols, on Friday, November 1, 2024, at the hour of 10:21 A.M.

Mike Chatelle and Morgan Hicks kept the minutes.

PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Erwin Duenas – NRCS Fresno Field Office District Conservationist
Steve Haze – Executive Director Tranquillity Resource Conservation District
Matt Hurley – Sierra Resource Conservation District/McMullin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Michael Khazzi – NRCS Fresno Soil Conservationist
Uyen Lien – NRCS Fresno Soil Conservationist
Dayadeepak Singh – NRCS Fresno Engineer
Alexandria Miranda – SJV Natural Resources Hub Coordinator
Noah Link – SJV Natural Resources Hub Carbon Farm Planner
Jasbir Sidhu – Punjabi American Growers Group (PAGG)
Morgan Hicks - TRCD District Operations, Technical Support Intern & NRCS Liaison
Mike Chatelle – TRCD District Operations, Technical Support Intern & NRCS Liaison

PERSONNEL PRESENT VIA MS TEAMS:

Johnnie Siliznoff – NRCS Fresno Area Office Assistant State Conservationist
Kassy Chauhan – North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Executive Officer
Jessie Kanter – Sierra Resource Conservation District Ag & Rangeland Program Manager

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

LWG MEETING MINUTES: No previous minutes to approve.

LWG NRCS & TRCD Report:

General: A description of the Cooperative Conservation Agreement between NRCS and TRCD was provided. Three main natural resource concerns were identified: Water, Soil, and Air.

- **Personnel Introductions** – This is the first Fresno County Local Working Group meeting held by NRCS and TRCD. Personnel from NRCS & TRCD introduced themselves and described their roles at their respective agencies.
- **LWG Activities** – A Fresno County Local Working Group Meeting will be held once every quarter under the Cooperative Conservation Agreement established between NRCS & TRCD.
- **Personnel** – Part-time interns under CCA. Mikel Chatelle & Morgan Hicks were brought on as part-time paid interns in June for district operations, technical assistance, and liaison with NRCS.
- **PAGG** – Resource concerns often treated as separate when they are interconnected. Agencies that offer funding can be disjoint and do not coordinate well. There can be disconnects between what agencies recommend and what funding opportunities will provide support for. If

coordination were improved, it would create synergy and conservation practices would be implemented more effectively. There are some new innovative conservation practices that are not yet supported by conservation agencies. For example, water treatment systems for improved water quality and soil health.

- **NRCS** – Discussed the EQIP Water Smart Program and funding availability for this practice standard. There are opportunities available in both Fresno and Madera counties to support water conservation planning through the Water SMART program which can provide funding to improve irrigation water efficiency.
- **San Joaquin Valley Natural Resources Hub** – Presented on Scaling Climate Smart Agriculture through Regional Partnerships. Quote from SJV Natural Resources personnel. The SJV hub is looking to foster regional partnerships to improve effectiveness of conservation efforts.
- **Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Planning Award** – Have had sessions with Farm of the Future and Carbon Cycle Institute partners and now working pre-public launch preparation with Self-Help Enterprises. Will be participating with SGC and TCC representatives in tour of past funded programs in Fresno County.

Next LWG meeting tentatively scheduled for February 2025.

ADJOURNMENT:

Adjournment declared at 12:45 P.M.