EXCELSIOR/KINGS RIVER
Resource Conservation District

Board Meeting
December 17, 2025
870 Greenfield Ave., Hanford

1. **Call to Order**
    a. **Flag Salute**

2. **Public Comment**
    a. *Any person may directly address the Board at this time on any item on the agenda or any other item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board.*

3. **Scheduled Study Session**
    a. Small Surface Water and Ground Storage Water Projects Grant Program (Discussion Only)

4. **Financial reports**
    a. November 2025 Financials - ***Action***
    b. Invoices - ***Action***

5. **Meeting Minutes**
    a. November 2025 regular meeting minutes – ***Action***

6. **Bountiful Agricultural Report**

7. **NRCS Report**

8. **Old Business**
    a. Grants
        i. CDFA Healthy Soils Program (HSP)
        ii. CDFA Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA)
        iii. NRCS Capacity Grant
    b. SGMA

9. **New Business**
    a. Small Surface Water and Ground Storage Water Projects Grant Program - ***Action***
    b. BOD Election Resolution – ***Action***

10. **Director Reports/Announcements**

Next Regularly Scheduled
Meeting January 21, 2026
1:30 PM

11. **Adjournment**

BOUNTIFUL
Agricultural Planning, LLC

Grant Research Report:

Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects Bureau of Reclamation Opportunity R25AS00270

PREPARED FOR:
Excelsior-Kings River Conservation District

Prepared By
Ian Vietti
Bountiful Agricultural Planning, LLC

Contents

Introduction

The U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has launched a competitive grant program for small water storage and groundwater storage projects, authorized by Section 40903 of the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (2021), Public Law 117-58. BOR administers the Small Surface and Groundwater Storage Program (Small Storage Program) to enhance water storage opportunities for future generations in support of the Department's priorities.

Proposals that meet one or more of the following criteria will have priority:

- Projects that will provide a more reliable water supply for States, Indian Tribes, and local governments.
- Projects that will increase water management flexibility and reduce impacts on environmental resources from projects operated by Federal and State agencies.
- Projects that are regional in nature.
- Projects with multiple stakeholders.
- Projects that will provide multiple benefits, including water supply reliability, ecosystem benefits, groundwater management and enhancements, and water quality improvements.

The program funds up to a 25% Federal cost-share ($30,000,000 million award ceiling) to plan, design, and construct surface and groundwater storage projects between 200 and 30,000 acre-feet that will increase water storage or move water to or from a storage project.

To be eligible, proposals must:

- Have water storage capacity between 200 acre-feet and 30,000 acre-feet.
- Increase yield to identified beneficiaries.
- Increase surface water or groundwater storage, or convey water to or from surface water or groundwater storage; and
- Submit a small storage feasibility study to BOR for review by February 13, 2026.

Applicability of Small Storage Program for EKRCD

The Small Storage Program provides an opportunity for EKRCD to meet one of its priorities for the region: increasing water supplies and mitigating the impacts of SGMA. Several projects have been identified that could be applied for that would meet potential program priorities. A discussion was held at previous EKRCD meetings to develop connections to existing natural sloughs within the district so that they could be utilized as natural recharge and storage ponds for flood releases, GSA recharge basins, or private recharge points. The range of the storage project size is advantageous, because the scope can be adjusted based on partners who agree, and will allow EKRCD to adjust the application scope during the grant application process to only those partners and opportunities who are fully committed.

With several irrigation districts having the existing infrastructure needed to complete this project without any major construction such as new major pipelines or transfer canals, it would allow EKRCD to put forward a cost-efficient project which should be competitive when calculating economic return and benefits to rural communities and stakeholders. It also will reduce the complexities of some of the regulatory and environmental hurdles, as many of the ground disturbances will be limited to turnout depths, not deeper and large excavations.

There will also be potential opportunities to either utilize other funding mechanisms and grant opportunities to assist with cost share or utilize the projects for future grant enhancement such as but not limited to: wetland conservation, multi-use land repurposing, wildlife habit, fisheries enhancement, recreation opportunities, private conservation easements.

EKRCD should be able to meet all five of the evaluation criteria: Water Supply Reliability, Water Management Flexibility, Benefits to Rural Communities, Stakeholder Support, and Economic Benefits with the proposed project, and due to the economic data publicly available documentation of the benefits should be relatively simple.

Small Storage Program Grant Requirements

1. Requires a SAM.gov and Grants.gov account, UEI, and Profiles
2. Required cost sharing:
    a. 75% of the grant request had to be cost shared.
    b. Cost share can be: cash, services, materials, equipment, or third party in-kind
3. Application
    a. Maximum of 125 pages, excluding budget details
    b. Title page-one page
    c. Executive Summary- one to two pages
    d. Project Location- multiple pages (15 estimated)
        i. Legal description
        ii. Map
    e. Project Schedule-multiple pages (10 estimated)
        i. Project activities
        ii. Timeline of work
        iii. Major tasks, milestone, dates
        iv. Gantt chart
    f. Project Description- multiple pages, (20-25 estimated)
        i. Work Description
        ii. Technical Summary and plans
        iii. Project outcomes and benefits
        iv. Project Management
        v. Description of each project task, outcomes, milestones
        vi. Expertise and technical ability
    g. Evaluation Criteria- multiple pages, (10 estimated)
        i. Description of outcomes and points associated
    h. Budget Narrative- multiple pages, (20-25 estimated)
        i. Justification of costs
        ii. Line item, explanation of totals, and breakdown
        iii. Indirect cost schedule
        iv. Potential pre award cost
        v. Environmental and Regulatory costs
    i. Conflict of interest- multiple pages, (5 estimated)
    j. Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement- multiple pages, (5 estimated)
        i. Description of other potential funding or
        ii. Statement of no overlap
    k. Letters of Commitment or Support multiple pages, (20 estimated)
        i. Of partners, supporters, contributors
4. Application forms

a. SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
b. SF-424A Budget information for Non-Construction Programs
c. Project Abstract Summary
d. Project Narrative Attachment Form
e. Budget Narrative Attachment Form

Proposed Scoping for Small Storage Program Project

The proposed scope of the EKRCD Small Storage Program grant application would be to develop connections to existing natural sloughs within the district so that they could be utilized as natural recharge and storage ponds for flood releases, GSA recharge basins, or private recharge points in partnership with irrigation districts, GSAs, and private landowners. Grant funds would be used to install turnout and pumping infrastructure to enable stakeholders to divert, store, sink, and utilize surface water supplies into historic sloughs or existing sinking basin infrastructure that lack connections to available supplies.

The system will be designed to maximize capture of flood releases for beneficial use, allow for diversions in case of flooding or levee failures to reduce impacts to the public and have calibrated measuring equipment for the purposes of water accounting between partners and stakeholders. Recharge of groundwater to increase basin-wide pumping supplies will be a primary focus. There is also the potential to utilize the project to sink water for clients who have the rights and connections downstream within the basin, but have losses due to unlined ditches, flow restrictions, or other factors not yet identified.

With several rural communities and the Tachi Yokuts Tribe's Santa Rosa Rancheria present within the district that could benefit from the project if scoped correctly, EKRCD's application could have a competitive advantage. The Bureau of Reclamation has specified that projects that meet the priority of increasing supplies to these communities will have an advantage. In addition, these stakeholders may also be able to contribute financial resources to reduce the cost share requirement.

Challenges for Small Storage Program application

1. Cost- It is likely that some cash costs will need to be contributed by participants. Identifying and negotiating agreements with potential contributors can take significant time, depending on board governance schedules. A strong partnership coalition of stakeholders will be mandatory to be successful. Partnerships can be challenging. The negotiations and MOUs will need to be completed prior to submission.

2. Competition- other potential stakeholders may wish to apply on their own, which could cause the project to be less competitive.

3. Criterion- Water supply reliability is the largest criterion, followed by economic benefit. How do we prove that this project will be beneficial when recharge can occur on existing farm ground, and will provide a regional economic benefit compared to the status quo?

4. Will we be able to get support from the State of California's myriads of water and environmental agencies, or are there any potential roadblocks due to water rights?

5. Will private landowners be willing to work with the project if no supply benefit is guaranteed to them?

Potential Positives

1. The focus on smaller projects is beneficial, may reduce competition from larger agencies with deep pockets.

2. The unique situation in EKRCD's territory has some attractive potential to hit multiple program priorities, especially if one of the small communities and the reservation will receive benefits.

3. The economic impact should be high due to the large amount and variety of ag commodities grown here. Private partners and suppliers should be readily available, as more recharge opportunities are desired.

4. There are a lot of potential partners in local GSAs, irrigation districts, and private landowners. If the right deals can be struck, funding could potentially be supplied by a partner, removing the need for EKRCD funds.

5. Based on the project type, additional grants may be utilized to assist in cost share or build off this project for future grants.

6. Stakeholder support should be easy to acquire, as the project should be able to benefit the whole basin.

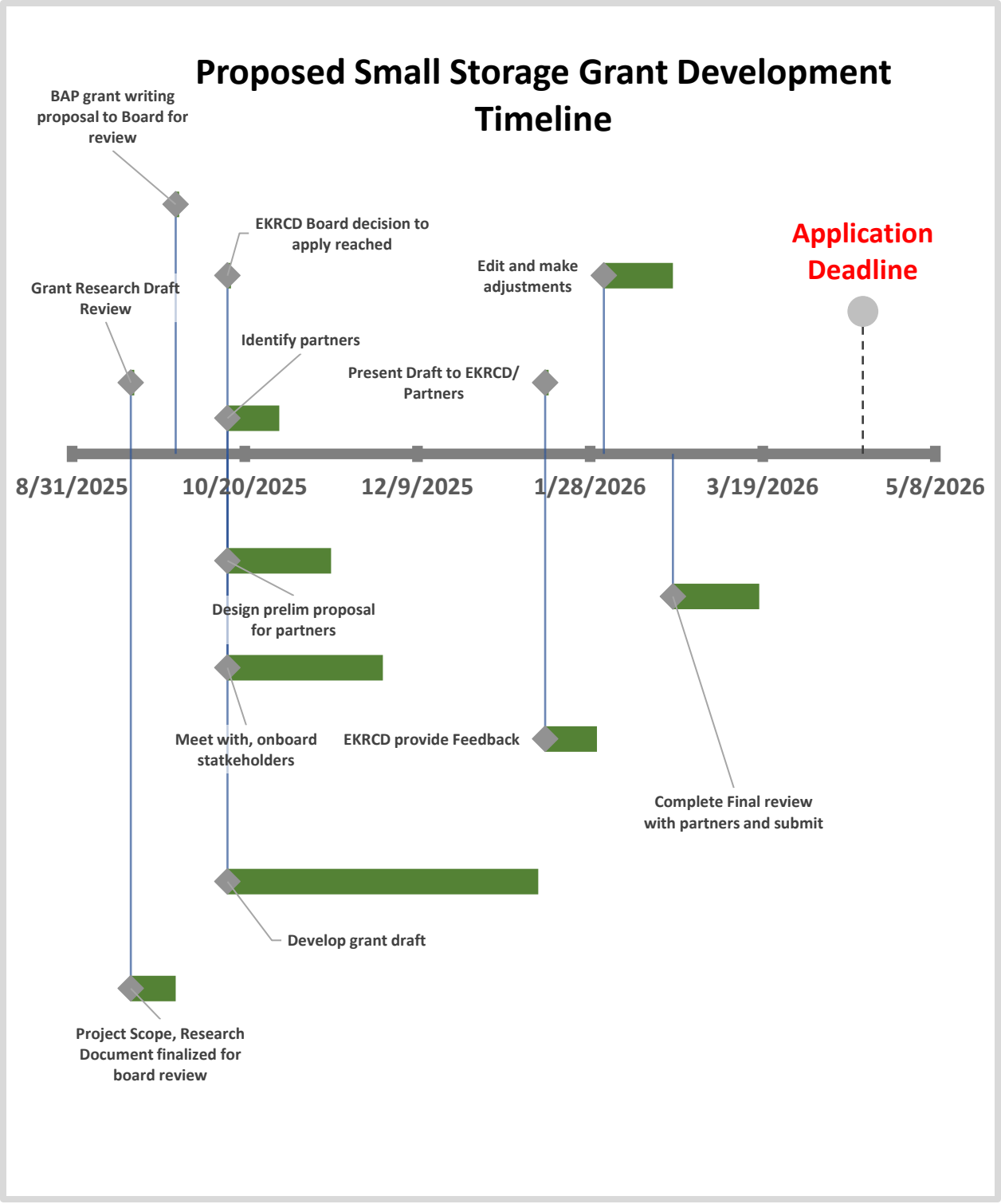
Potential for Success

Trying to estimate the potential for success is always a difficult proposition. As listed in the previous two sections, I believe there is a lot of potential, however there are a lot of unknowns. I would estimate the chances for a successful EKRCD application currently at 30% if we can find partners and have agreements in place prior to submission. If we can incorporate the reservation's population and a rural community like Riverdale, I think the application's chance could increase to the 50-percentile range. For a first-time applicant, I would say that odds would never be greater than 30% as there is no established history of performance, however, if any of the partners have had federal grants, it should negate the potential negative association of a first-time applicant.

Time Estimates for Preparation

Item	Estimated time (hours)
Application Forms	**24**
SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance	4
SF-424A Budget information for Non-Construction Programs	4
Project Abstract Summary	8
Project Narrative Attachment Form	4
Budget Narrative Attachment Form	4
Application Items	**182**
Title page-one page	2
Executive Summary- one to two pages	5
Project Location (15 estimated)	20
Project Schedule (15 estimated)	20
Project Description- multiple pages, (20-25 estimated)	30
Evaluation Criteria- multiple pages, (10 estimated)	20
Budget Narrative- multiple pages, (20-25 estimated)	30
Conflict of interest- multiple pages, (5 estimated)	10
Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement- multiple pages, (5 estimated)	15
Letters of Commitment or Support multiple pages, (20 estimated)	40
Other	**155**
Partner outreach and alignment	50
DOR outreach and consulting	20
DOR policy research	20
Editing	45
Meetings and Changes	20

Total estimated time commitment for grant preparation: 361 hours.


Proposed Small Storage Grant Development Timeline
BAP grant writing proposal to Board for review
EKRCD Board decision to apply reached
Application Deadline
Edit and make adjustments
Grant Research Draft Review
Identify partners
Present Draft to EKRCD/ Partners
8/31/2025
10/20/2025
12/9/2025
1/28/2026
3/19/2026
5/8/2026
Design prelim proposal for partners
Meet with, onboard statkeholders
EKRCD provide Feedback
Complete Final review with partners and submit
Develop grant draft
Project Scope, Research Document finalized for board review

Items required from Board to Prepare Application

- Potential partners whom EKRCD could work with, who would supply funds for the cost share
  - Locations/landowners for the storage project sites
  - How many are reasonable
  - Who has rights to the water
- Identify communities who would directly benefit
- Determine the scope of the project and total project budget
- Identify the length and estimated timeline of the project
- Identify potential risks or legal challenges to the project
- Estimate the amount of water the total project would store
- Submit a small storage feasibility study to Reclamation for review by February 13, 2026.

The following are the questions that will need to be answered in the application:

Evaluation Criterion 1—Water Supply Reliability (35 points)

Sub-criterion No. 1a— Enhanced Water Supplies (20 points)

Reclamation will award points based on the extent to which the project is expected to secure and stretch reliable water supplies. Reclamation will give consideration to the amount of water expected to be made available by the project (in acre-feet), which communities the project will serve, and the extent to which the project will reduce demands on existing water supplies and/or facilities.

1. How much additional storage capacity does the project add to the system (relative to current system capacity)? How many additional acre-feet of water will the project make available, on average, each year upon completion? What percentage of the service area's overall water supply will the project's water provide upon completion? Use the total average project water production over the anticipated life of the project.

2. Will the project reduce or eliminate the reliance on imported water or other sources of surface water supplies that are less reliable? Explain.

3. Will the project reduce groundwater overdraft and positively contribute to the sustainable yield of a groundwater basin or local aquifer? Explain.

4. Will the project alleviate pressure on existing water supplies and/or facilities? If so, please identify the supplies and/or facilities and explain how they will benefit from the project, including quantifications where applicable. Please include a description of the conditions that exist in the area and projections of the future with, and without, the project.

5. What performance measures and monitoring will be used to quantify and track actual benefits upon completion of the project?

Sub-criterion No. 1b— Contributions to Water Supply (15 points)

Reclamation will award points for projects that contribute to a more drought resilient water supply.

1. Explain the role of the project in addressing any of the below concerns and the extent to which the project will address them. Consider the number of acre-feet of water that the project will make available and the severity of the concerns addressed. Specific concerns may include, but are not limited to:

a. water supply shortages,
b. water supply reliability,
c. groundwater depletion,
d. water quality issues,
e. natural disasters (including wildfires and floods) that may impact water supply infrastructure,
f. heightened competition for water supplies,
g. availability of alternative supplies, and
h. increasing cost of water supplies

2. Reclamation is focused on increasing water supply and drought resilience to protect water supplies throughout the Western United States.

a. Will the project address observed or anticipated hydrologic variability in the service area? Explain.
b. Will water made available by this project be resilient into the future? Particularly in consideration of alternative water supply options that exist in the service area, to what extent does the project represent a drought resilient alternative? Explain.
c. Does the project contribute to water supply resiliency in other ways not described above? Explain.

3. The severity of actual or potential drought impacts that the project will address is an important consideration in assessing its contribution to water supply resiliency. Describe recent, existing, or potential drought conditions in the project area, including the severity of actual or potential drought impacts that the project will address.

a. Will the project help create additional flexibility to address drought? Will water made available by this project continue to be available during periods of drought? To what extent is the water made available by this project more drought resistant than alternative water supply options? Explain.
b. Has the United States Drought Monitor identified the area served by the project as experiencing extreme (D3) or exceptional (D4) drought for at least 1 consecutive year in the last 4 years? Explain.
c. Has the State designated the area served by the project as a drought disaster area in the last 4 years? Explain.

Evaluation Criterion 2—Water Management Flexibility (16 points)

Reclamation will award points based on the extent to which the project will improve surface water or groundwater flexibility including benefits to non-listed species and federally listed threatened or endangered species.

Sub-criterion No. 2a— Operational Flexibility (10 points)

1. Will the project help create additional operational flexibility to improve the management of water supplies? If so, how?
2. Will the project protect or improve the quality of surface water or groundwater? If so, explain how the project will accomplish this and the extent to which the project will do this.
3. Will the project take steps to minimize the environmental impacts of source water acquisition (intakes or groundwater pumping) as part of the project? If so, explain.
4. Will the project provide water or habitat for non-listed species? If so, how?

Sub-criterion No. 2b— Legal and Contractual Water Supply Obligations (6 Points)

Reclamation will award points to projects that help to meet Reclamation's legal and contractual obligations, including how the project relates to Reclamation's mission or serves a Federal interest. Note that a project may help Reclamation fulfill its obligations or reduce its impacts even if the project sponsor is not a Reclamation contractor. Reclamation will also consider indirect benefits under this criterion.

1. Does the project help fulfill any of Reclamation's legal or contractual obligations such as providing water for Tribes, water right settlements, river restoration, minimum flows, legal court orders, or other obligations? Explain.
2. Will the project provide water or habitat for, or otherwise help protect, Federally listed threatened or endangered species? If so, how?
3. Does the local area depend in whole or in part on imported water from the Colorado River

Basin or other basins experiencing comparable levels of long-term drought? If so, will the project reduce reliance on imports specifically from the Colorado River or other basin experiencing severe drought? Explain.

Evaluation Criterion 3—Benefits to Rural Communities (12 points)

Reclamation will award points based on the extent to which the project provides benefits to rural small communities throughout the service area. For the purposes of this funding opportunity, a rural community is defined as an incorporated or unincorporated community with fewer than 50,000 people.

1. Does the project provide benefits to at least one rural community? Explain and discuss to what extent the project serves rural communities.
2. For example, will the proposed project provide any additional benefits (such as economic growth opportunities, increases to short or long-term local employment, water quality, etc.)? If so, please identify these communities and discuss the extent to which the project will realize these additional benefits. Please be sure to indicate whether the project will provide water supply to a Federally Recognized Tribe.

Evaluation Criterion 4—Stakeholder Support (12 points)

Reclamation will award points based on the extent to which the project demonstrates support from multiple stakeholders. In responding to the questions below, applicants should highlight efforts to foster relationships during planning and design of the project and initiatives to continue respectful partnerships after project completion among the multiple stakeholders with potentially competing interests and/or values.

1. Does the project promote collaborative partnerships to address water and related issues? Please describe these partnerships and the nature of the collaboration.
2. Does the project implement a regional or State water plan or an integrated resource management plan? Explain.
3. Does the project include outreach and opportunities for the public to learn about the project beyond what environmental compliance requires? Please describe these opportunities, including future opportunities, at the following phases of the project:

a. planning and design, b. construction, and c. implementation.

4. How has the project addressed competing or conflicting interests from either affected stakeholders and/or the public?

5. Does the project have documented support from Tribes? If so, please identify these Tribes and describe the nature of their support for the project.

Evaluation Criterion 5—Economic Benefits (25 points)

Sub-criterion No. 5a—Cost Effectiveness (15 points)

Reclamation will award points based on the cost per acre-foot of water that the applicant expects the project to deliver upon completion and how the cost of the project compares to other potential water supply options. Applicants should provide costs for the entire project described in the Reclamation-approved feasibility study.

1. Reclamation will calculate the cost per acre-foot of water produced by the project using information provided by project sponsors. Please provide the following information for this calculation:

   a. the total estimated construction costs, by year, for the project (include all previous and planned work) as shown in the following table.
   b. the total estimated or actual cost to plan and design the project.
   c. the average annual (rather than total) operation and maintenance costs for the life of the project. Please do not include periodic replacement costs in the operation and maintenance costs. Please provide any periodic replacement costs separately in response to Question f), below.
   d. the year the project will begin to deliver water.
   e. the projected life (in years) that the project is expected to last, starting from the time the project starts delivering water.
   f. all estimated replacement costs by year as shown in the following table. If there are multiple replacement costs in one year, or at the same interval, please total them and put them on one line with the year or interval.
   a. The maximum volume of new water (in acre-feet) available for delivery annually upon completion of the project. This volume of water must correspond to the costs provided above.

2. Reclamation will calculate the cost per acre-foot for the project using the information requested in the Sub-criterion No. 5a—Cost Effectiveness section, Question 1, and compare it to any other water supply options identified by the applicant as potential alternatives to evaluate the cost effectiveness of the project. Please provide the following information for this comparison:

   a. the cost per acre-foot of other water supply alternatives that the non-Federal project sponsor could implement in lieu of the project.
   b. if available, the cost per acre foot of one water supply project with similar characteristics to the project. This information can provide another point of comparison to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of the project.
   c. discussion of the degree to which the project is cost-effective, including, where applicable, a discussion of why the project may be cost effective even if the overall project cost appears to be high.

Sub-criterion No. 5b— Economic Analysis and Project Benefits (10 points)

Reclamation will award points based on the analysis of the project's benefits relative to the project's costs. Please use costs related to the entire project. Reclamation will award additional

points for projects with multiple project benefits. Proposals containing a well-supported and detailed description of both quantifiable and qualitative benefits will receive the most points

1. Summarize the economic analysis performed for the project, including information on the project's estimated benefits and costs. Describe the methodologies used for the analysis. Reclamation will award points based on a comparison of the benefits and costs of the project. The summary should include:
    a. quantified and monetized project costs, including capital costs and operations and maintenance costs.
    b. quantified and monetized project benefits. This includes benefits that can be quantified and expressed as a monetized benefit per acre-foot. This may include but is not limited to: benefits related to water supply quantity and water supply reliability, recreational benefits, ecosystem benefits, water quality, flood risk mitigation, and energy efficiency. Benefits may also include the avoided costs of no action (i.e., the costs that would be incurred if the project were not implemented), and the willingness of users or customers to pay for a benefit or to avoid a negative outcome (i.e., the willingness of households to pay for a water supply system that would reduce the chance of a drought emergency within a locality or State).
    c. if quantified and/or monetized information for these benefits is not available, applicants may address them in response to Question 2, below.
    d. A comparison of the project's quantified and monetized benefits and costs. Note: applicants must include information in the proposal to be considered. Reclamation will not base scores on information provided in the project's feasibility study if applicants do not include the information in the proposal.

2. Describe any economic benefits of the project that are difficult to quantify or monetize. Provide a qualitative discussion of the economic impact of these benefits. Reclamation will award points based on the potential economic impact of the project-related benefits. Some examples of benefits may include but are not limited to: benefits to habitat or species, local impacts on residents and/or businesses, job creation, and regional impacts. Applicants may also include benefits listed in the Sub-criterion No. 5a—Cost Effectiveness section, Question 1, if the benefits have not been monetized (e.g., water supply reliability, water quality, recreation, flood risk mitigation, etc.).

3. Reclamation will evaluate projects based on whether the proposed project would provide multiple benefits, including water supply reliability, ecosystem benefits, groundwater management and enhancement, and water quality improvements. Does the project provide multiple benefits, or is it a single purpose facility? Explain.

EKRCD Financials -November

Starting Balance 10/31/25 $230,324.34

			Credit	Debit
11/5/25	HSP Reimbursement Q3	Kings County Farm Bureau		$42,790.23
11/30/25	Adjustment			$99.00
		Expenses	$42,889.23	
		Income	$0.00	
		Account Balance	**$187,435.11**	

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INVOICE

BILL TO
Excelsior/Kings River RCD
870 Greenfield Ave
Hanford, CA 93230

INVOICE	20074802
DATE	12/01/2025
TERMS	Net 30
DUE DATE	12/31/2025

ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
EKRCD Contract	1	2,500.00	2,500.00

BALANCE DUE **$2,500.00**

Board members present: J. Barba, E.Esajian, N. Heeringa, P. Newton, M.Miya,
Others present: B. Bain, M. Burks, M. Hebert, K. Ruble, I. Vietti, T. Flores, D. Ference

1. **Call to Order**: 1:32 PM

2. **Director Introduction:** M. Miya introduced new director, J. Barba.

3. **Public Comments**: N/A

4. **Financial Report**
    a. A motion was made by Paul Newton, seconded by Ed Esajian, and passed without opposition, approving the September and October 2025 Financial Report as presented.
    b. A motion was made by Ed Esajian, seconded by Jerred Barba, and passed without opposition, approving invoices as presented.

5. **Meeting Minutes**:
    a. A motion was made by Paul Newton, seconded by Michael Miya, and passed without opposition, approving the September regular meeting minutes as presented.

6. **Bountiful Agricultural**
    a. I. Vietti presented the monthly grant and funding report

7. **NRCS Report**
    a. M. Burks provided an update that systems are still down.

8. **Old Business:**
    a. Grants
        i. CDFA Healthy Soils Program (HSP)
            1. D. Ference introduced M. Hebert with IAS.
        ii. CDFA Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA)
            1. D. Ference provided an update. Grant was extended to March 31, 2027.
        iii. NRCS Capacity Grant – No available update.
    b. SGMA
        i. D. Ference provided updates.

9. **New Business**
    a. Small Surface Water and Ground Storage Water Projects Grant Program
        i. Item discussed. No action was taken.
    b. CDFA Sweep Grant
        i. Item discussed. No action was taken.
    c. BOD Election Schedule
        i. D. Ference presented. Following discussion, the item was continued to the next regular meeting.

10. **Adjournment**: 3:12 PM

Monthly Grant and Funding Opportunity Report

For month December 2025

Federal Funding:

USDA- 2026 America First Trade Promotion Program-Applicants must be either a nonprofit U.S. agricultural trade organization that promotes the export and sale of one or more United States agricultural commodities, an SRTG, a U.S.agricultural cooperative, or a U.S. state agency. No award ceiling, due Jan 23, 2026

State Funding:

CDFA- proposals for assistance to limited resource applicants for the 2026 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP). The intent of the assistance program is to provide a process through which small and/or limited resource applicant organizations can participate and successfully implement their SCBGP projects. $75,000 to $250,000 award, due Monday, January 12, 2026.

SWRCB- 2026 Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant- $50,000.00- $1 Million 25% cost share. supports projects to reduce and mitigate the effects of nonpoint source pollutants to waters of the state within priority watersheds identified by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards. Projects that improve impaired waters, protect high quality waters, and restore fire-damaged landscapes will be considered along with planning and implementation project proposals Due 12/19/25.

NEW* Department of Conservation: Round 11a Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) Planning Grants- Planning grants support the development of local and regional land use policies and economic development strategies to these agricultural lands. 10% cost share, $500,000 limit

Note: pre-proposals are required, deadline for submittal is January 15, 2025, full proposal June 17 2026.

NEW* Air Resources Board: Community Engagement for the California Satellite Methane Project: Third-Party Administrator Grant Solicitation. The CalSMP Community Engagement Project aims to provide technical assistance to communities to support understanding of the science of methane as a pollutant, how the CalSMP works to reduce emissions, and the data from the project, and to engage the community on information needs. $2,375,000 max, no cost share Application deadline 1/13/26

Other Funding Notes:

Expect both Federal and State Agencies to begin releasing RFP's and grants at a rapid pace for next 3-4 months.

RESOLUTION NO. 202512___

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXCELSIOR–KINGS RIVER RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGARDING DIRECTOR TERM EXPIRATIONS, STAGGERING OF TERMS, AND NOTICE TO THE COUNTY CLERK

WHEREAS, the Excelsior–Kings River Resource Conservation District ("District") is governed by a five-member Board of Directors appointed pursuant to Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code; and,

WHEREAS, the Public Resources Code requires Resource Conservation District directors to serve four-year staggered terms so that no more than three directors' terms expire in any given two-year cycle; and,

WHEREAS, the District has reviewed director term histories and determined that several positions have expired, and that the current distribution of term expirations does not meet the statutory intent for staggered terms; and,

WHEREAS, the following director terms have expired:
• Ed Esajian — Term expired February 2024
• Paul Newton — Term expired October 2022
• Michael Miya — Term expired August 2022
• Tony DeGroot — Term expired February 2024

WHEREAS, the Board desires to: (a) formally acknowledge these expirations, (b) maintain continuity of governance through permitted holdover service, (c) re-establish proper staggered terms consistent with state law, and (d) direct District staff to notify the Kings County Clerk so the Kings County Board of Supervisors may take the necessary appointment actions.

1. Acknowledgment of Term Expirations.
The Board hereby acknowledges that the terms of Directors Esajian, Newton, Miya, and DeGroot have expired on the dates listed above.

2. Holdover Status.
Each director with an expired term shall continue to serve in a holdover capacity until reappointed or replaced by the Kings County Board of Supervisors, as permitted by law.

3. Restoration of Proper Staggering.
To restore statutory staggering once the Board of Supervisors makes its appointments:
• Two director positions shall receive four-year terms expiring in 2028.
• Two director positions shall receive four-year terms expiring in 2026.

This restores the required two-and-three stagger. The Board recommends the Board of Supervisors assign terms consistent with this structure.

4. Direction to Staff – Notice to County Clerk.
District staff is directed to notify the Kings County Clerk of:
(a) the expired terms,
(b) the holdover status of current directors, and
(c) the recommended staggering structure.
Staff shall request that the Board of Supervisors make the appropriate appointments and assign terms accordingly.

5. Administrative Follow-Up.
District staff shall monitor progress with the County Clerk and report back to the Board until all appointments are completed.

6. Effective Date.
This Resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025, by the Board of Directors of the Excelsior–Kings River Resource Conservation District.

_____
Michael Miya
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

_____
Dusty Ference
General Manager