

WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes - Board of Directors  
Tuesday, March 22, 2022

800 Kern Street  
Taft, California

*Directors Present:* Barry Jameson  
Gary J. Morris  
Scott Niblett  
Bo Bravo

*Directors Absent:* David A. Wells

*Ex-Officio Officer:* Greg A. Hammett, General Manager/Secretary

*District Counsel:* Joseph D. Hughes

*Recording Secretary:* Deann Crabtree

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I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Vice President Barry M. Jameson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Administrative Assistant, Deann Crabtree called roll and noted that Vice President Jameson, Niblett, Morris and Bravo were present. President Wells as absent.

IV. ADOPTION OF ALTERNATIVE TELECONFERENCING REQUIREMENTS

1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Utilizing Alternative Teleconferencing Requirements During a State of Emergency Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953, as Amended by Assembly Bill 361. The Board will be required to determine that:  
(a) The proclaimed state of emergency arising from COVID-19 continues to exist. (b) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the Board Members to meet safely in person.

*Upon Motion by Director Bravo, Seconded  
By Director Niblett and Carried Unanimously  
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Approve the Utilization of Alternative Teleconference  
Requirements During a State of Emergency Pursuant to  
Resolution 21-08.*

V. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS

No conflicts to report.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments to report.

**VII. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded  
By Director Niblett and Carried Unanimously  
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To approve the March 22, 2022  
Regular Board Meeting Agenda.*

**VIII. DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING:  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. February 22, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

*Upon Motion by Director Bravo, Seconded  
By Director Niblett and Carried Unanimously  
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To approve the Minutes of the  
February 22, 2022 Regular Board Meeting,*

**IX. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**X. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**i. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Training Report**

**RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.**

**ii. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Operations Department Review**

**RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.**

**iii. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Cash Flow for February, 2022**

**RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.**

**iv. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Capital Improvement Budget Comparison and Equipment  
Procurement**

**RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.**

v. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Safety Meeting and Project Report**

**RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.**

XI. **DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice President Jameson noted no items were pulled for further discussion.

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded  
By Director Niblett Carried Unanimously  
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To approve Consent Items i-vi of the  
March 22, 2022 Board Agenda.*

XII. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. **WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
(Niblett, Wells)**

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Water Supply Report**

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger reviewed the current Water Supply Report with Directors and staff.

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
General Manager Water Report**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reviewed the Northern Sierra Precipitation report, state reservoir conditions, snowpack and various hydrology reports with the Board of Directors.

Mr. Hammett also reported The Department of Water resources reduced the State Water Project allocation to 5% on March 18, 2022 and provided a brief update on the Delta Conveyance Facility Project.

3. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
West Kern Water District and Cawelo Water District Agreement for the  
Transfer of State Water Project Water**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported Staff has developed a mutually beneficial one-year transfer that involves up to 5,000 acre-feet of West Kern's previously stored State Water Project water in San Luis Reservoir.

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded  
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously  
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Approve the transfer of up to 5,000 AF of previously stored  
State Water Project Water to Cawelo Water District and file a  
Notice of Exemption with the County of Kern.*

**B. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE  
(Jameson, Niblett)**

**1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Contract Between Kern County  
Water Agency and West Kern Water District for Preliminary Planning  
and Design Costs Related to a Potential Delta Conveyance Project**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported at the regular meeting on October 27, 2020, the Board adopted Resolution 20-03, approving the Contract between Kern County Water Agency and West Kern Water District for Delta Conveyance Program Costs. Program costs are estimated to total approximately \$385MM to cover planning, environmental work and preliminary design to support approval of the necessary permits by 2024. The District's total share of those costs is about \$2.1MM and will be collected in the annual Statement of Charges through 2024.

The funding Contract allows participants the option to "opt-out" of the final two years of funding. Those participants willing to fund the final two years of planning and permitting costs are required to execute an amendment (Amendment No.1) to the existing Contract.

If the DCP moves to construction, Member Units will be asked to decide whether to participate in the project and obligate their district to a share of the construction costs.

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded  
By Director Jameson and Carried Unanimously  
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Authorize Execution of Amendment No.1 to the Contract  
Between Kern County Water Agency and West Kern Water District  
for Preliminary Planning and Design Costs Related to a Potential  
Delta Conveyance Project.*

**2. Discussion and Appropriate Action:  
West Kern Water District Water Rate Study**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported Jeff Eckland of Provost and Pritchard is working to complete the Districts Water Rate Study for Board consideration in April. The Board of Directors requested that a Water Rate Study workshop be scheduled to discuss the final study, on April 7, 2022.

**C. FACILITIES COMMITTEE  
(Jameson, Bravo)**

**1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Station C (West) Tank #13 Interior/Exterior Recoat,  
Repairs and Retrofit, Job #22-3101  
Award of Coating and Inspection Contracts**

Operations Engineer Administrator, Troy Turley reported the scope of this project includes Interior recoat & Exterior repairs and retrofit of Station C (West) Tank #13 as required by the project plans and specifications. A Notice Inviting Bids was published in the Bakersfield Californian on Friday, February 25, 2022. A Request for Proposal was issued through the West Kern Water District web site and by contacting pre-qualified contractors currently listed on the District Bidders List. A mandatory pre bid job walk was conducted on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, with 7 Contractors in attendance. On Tuesday, March 8, 2022, the District received the following (4) four bids: Simpson Sandblasting & Coatings \$266,225.00, Unified Field Services \$317,946.00 Advanced Industrial Services, Inc. \$329,775.00 and KS Fabrication & Machine \$396,599.00. The project provides for the quality control inspection of the interior and exterior coating per District specifications. A Request for Proposal was issued through the West Kern Water District web site and by contacting pre-qualified inspectors currently listed on the District Bidders List. On Tuesday, March 8, 2022, the District received (1) one bid: MCS Inspection Group \$41,535.00.

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded  
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously  
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes*

*To A. To approve awarding of contract to Simpson Sandblasting & Coatings, Inc. in the amount of \$266,225.00 for interior recoat and exterior repairs and retrofit of Station C (West) Tank #13, Job #22-3101 and issue a notice to proceed when all contract documents are in place. B. To approve awarding of Professional Services Contract to MCS Inspection Group in the amount of \$41,535.00.*

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
South Taft Water System Improvements (Phase II), Job #22-1300  
Request to Seek Bids**

Assistant to Director of Operations, Taylor Miller reported Staff has completed the bid packages for the South Taft Water System Improvement project. The County is currently reviewing all documents. When the bid package is finalized a notice to material suppliers will be published in the Bakersfield Californian. The tentative dates for publication are, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28 & 5/5 with a bid opening date of May 13, 2022.

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded  
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously  
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes*

*To Authorize Staff to seek bids for Material Suppliers for South Taft Water System Improvement, Phase II.*

D. **FINANCE COMMITTEE  
(Morris, Bravo)**

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Accounts Payable for March 2022**

Director of Finance, Sunny Kapoor presented the accounts payable report for March 2022.

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded  
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously  
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Approve Expenditure for the March 2022  
Bills When Funds are Available.*

E. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**  
(Wells, Morris)

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Business Continuity Plan – Infectious Disease Control Policy  
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett provided a status report on continued implementation of infectious disease control practices and the ongoing restrictions and mandates during the COVID-19 pandemic.

XIII. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

No items to report.

XIV. **ISSUES OF CONCERN**

A. **April 2022 Meeting Calendar**

Directors approved the April 2022 Calendar.

B. **Potential Issues to be Addressed at Next Board Meeting**

No items to report.

C. **Board of Director Announcements or Reports**

No items to report.

D. **General Manager's Report**

No items to report.

E. **Management Staff Report**

Director of Finance Sunny Kapoor thanked Adeana McDaniel-Furman and her staff for doing a great job processing \$36,000.00 the District received from the state to cover customer arrearages. Sunny further thanked Engineering Staff for coming in under budget on the tank farm recoat project.

F. **Kern Ground Water Authority Issues**

Greg A. Hammett gave a brief report on Kern Ground Water Authority issues.

**G. Attorney Report**

No items to report.

**XV. CLOSED SESSION**

**1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Government Code, § 54956.9(d)(1)  
Conference with Legal Counsel  
Existing Litigation: 2 Cases**

A. *Rosedale-Rio Bravo WSD et al. v. KCWA et. al.;*  
Kern County Superior Court  
Case No. BCV-21-10418

B. *Kern Water Bank Authority vs. Kern Local Agency Formation  
Commission,* Kern County Superior Court  
Case No. BCV-21-101310

**2. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Government Code, § 54956.8  
Conference with Real Property Negotiator  
Description of Property: SWP Water  
Agency Negotiator: Greg Hammett, General Manager  
Negotiation Parties: West Kern & Parties to Be Determined  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms**

Directors moved into Closed Session at 6:30 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

March 22, 2022

**Date Approved**

  
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**Greg A. Hammett,  
Secretary of the Board of Directors of  
WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT**

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