

WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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Minutes – Board of Directors  
Tuesday, October 22, 2024

800 Kern Street  
Taft, California

*Directors Present:*        *Barry M. Jameson*  
                                      *Scott Niblett*  
                                      *David A. Wells*  
                                      *Gary Morris*  
                                      *Bo Bravo*

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

*District Counsel:*        *Alex Dominguez*

*Recording Secretary:*    *Deann Crabtree*

*Staff in Attendance:*    *Sunny Kapoor, Tami Sivils, Taylor Miller, Troy Turley,*  
                                      *Wendy Adams-Rosenberger, John Stuntebeck,*  
                                      *Zak Crabb & Mike Law*

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I.    CALL TO ORDER

II.   FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

IV.   CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS

No conflicts to report.

V.    PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments to report.

VI.   APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded*  
*By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously*  
*With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes*  
*To approve the October 22, 2024*  
*Regular Board Meeting Agenda.*

President Jameson announced Item #1 in Personnel would be moved to after the Consent Portion of the Agenda.

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

A. September 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded  
By Director Wells Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To approve the Minutes of the  
September 24, 2024 Budget Workshop Meeting.*

**VIII. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**IX. 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 September 2024**

**RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.**

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

**RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.**

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

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded  
By Director Bravo Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Approve Consent Items i-iv of the  
October 22, 2024, Board Agenda.*

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Amped Safety Innovations Safety Program and Projects Report  
with the Board of Directors**

District Safety Specialist, Brad & Dawn Fore of Amped Safety Innovations Inc. gave the Board an update on the services they offer the District and what to expect in the upcoming year.

**XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**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, the General Manager also reported on the Delta Conveyance Project, Operations and Fall X2 study

**3. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Lead Service Line Inventory**

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger, reviewed with the Board the U.S. EPA's Lead and Copper Rules Revisions (LCRR) required by all California communities.

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

**1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Regular Board Meetings of November & December, 2024**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported the Regular Board Meetings in November and December fall during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday week. Due to holiday travel it is recommended to adjust the Committee Meetings to the week prior and move the Regular Board Meetings up by one week.

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded  
By Director Wells Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Approve moving the November Board Meeting  
to November 19, 2024 and the December Board Meeting  
to December 17, 2024.*

**2. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Agreement with INTERA Inc. to Prepare a Well Mitigation  
Program for the Kern Subbasin**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported SGMA requires avoidance of undesirable results (URs) including, among other things, dry wells and degraded water quality impacts post-2015 as a result of GSA activities (i.e., pumping and recharge). URs have occurred in the Kern Subbasin in the past and may occur in the future and mitigation services and technical assistance for those impacted by URs is needed. To address the Kern Subbasin URs, a Kern Subbasin-wide Mitigation Program will be developed to provide the framework for implementation of mitigation when required. INTERA Inc. will work with the Kern Well Mitigation Subcommittee, Self-Help Enterprises and stakeholders to develop the Kern Subbasin Mitigation Program and Implementation Plan (Plan). INTERA's proposal was reviewed by the Board. The Plan will be developed for a cost not to exceed \$70,302.00. West Kern's obligation under said contract is approximately \$3,500.00. Note: INTERA prepared a well mitigation plan for the Kaweah Subbasin that was praised by SWRCB Staff. The proposal has been discussed with other GSAs in the subbasin and is recommended for approval.

*Upon Motion by Director Morris Seconded  
By Director Bravo Carried Unanimously  
To Authorize the General Manger to execute  
an agreement with INTERA Inc. to prepare a Well  
Mitigation Program for the Kern Sub-basin.*

3. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Agreement with INTERA Inc. to Prepare a Well Mitigation  
Program for the Kern Subbasin**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported Kristin Pittack with Rincon Consulting has served as point-of-contact and coordinator (aka Plan Manager) for the Kern Subbasin since August 2023. The current contract with Rincon was executed in July 2024 and runs through December 2024. Since July 2024, additional meetings and general coordination requested by the Subbasin, in response to the SWRCB release of the Subbasin Draft Staff Report and Public Hearing Notice for February 2025, has resulted in hours expended beyond the current contract. In addition, meetings and coordination are necessary to support the Subbasin prior to the February 2025 hearing which requires an amendment to the current contract. Rincon's proposal was reviewed by the Board. The amendment will extend Kristin's service through February 2025 for a cost not-to-exceed \$185,736.00. West Kern's obligation under said contract is approximately \$8,500.00. The proposal has been discussed with other GSAs in the subbasin and is recommended for approval.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded  
By Director Niblett and Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Authorize the General Manger to execute  
an amendment to the current agreement with  
Rincon Consulting to provide Plan Manager  
Services for the Kern Sub-basin.*

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

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Well NW3 Repair, Job #24-6500**

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck reported on January 10, 2024, Bakersfield Well and Pump (BWP) pulled the pump and motor to inspect and determine if repairs are under warranty. Based on BWP's inspection, it appears the pump and column pipe had rubbed against the liner and that a significant amount of sand and gravel had been produced during routine operation causing unrepairable damage to the pump. Upon further review of video logs performed on the well, District Staff and Dee Jaspar & Associates agreed to retain Corpro to conduct a survey to determine whether stray current may be impacting the integrity of the well casing metal. After reviewing the survey results, Corpro concluded that there is no evidence that stray currents affected the well's casing. Based upon the results, District Staff contacted Bakersfield Well to start the reassembly process. BWP has agreed to cover the cost of installing a patch in the liner where the pump appears to have rubbed, perform a post construction video and reinstall the pump and appurtenances. However, to allow as much clearance as possible between the liner and the pump, the District will cover the cost of a new smaller diameter pump capable of producing approximately 1,000 gpm. The estimated cost of the pump is approximately \$30,000.00.

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded  
By Director Wells and Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Authorize Staff to purchase 9 ½ - 9 ¾  
20 Stage Pump for NW3*

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
NW1 Solar Site and Office Solar Feasibility Study, Job #25-7200**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported in July 2024, Staff requested a proposal from TerraVerde Energy to recommend the best option(s) for the District to use solar generation at NW1 or other District Facilities. TerraVerde provided the attached analysis for transferring from NEM1 tariff to RES-BCT Program. Based upon preliminary discussions with TerraVerde, transferring from NEM1 tariff to RES-BCT will potentially reduce solar generation credits at NW1, based on historic usage, by nearly \$200,000 annually. Staff has requested a proposal from TerraVerde to conduct a more detailed analysis of the savings differential and Staff is currently exploring options to bring NW1 back into operation.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded  
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Approve payment of \$17,500.00 for the solar  
and tariff feasibility assessments.*

3. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
North Well Field Mowing Services, Job #25-4600**

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck reported in recent years the District has recharged a large amount of water in the North Well Field. The saturation of water has exacerbated vegetation growth on the property. To mitigate the situation and comply with the Final Groundwater Banking Project EIR, Mitigation Measure AG-1, Staff requested proposals for mowing the perimeter of the property. On September 25th, District Staff emailed request for proposals (RFP) to Contractor's on our Qualified Bidder's List (5).

A mandatory job walk was held on October 2nd, with two contractors in attendance. The District received the following proposals: Option one (Perimeter Only) Option 2 (Perimeter & Levees) Sazama Construction \$32,804.00/ \$70,752.00, and Ant's Tractor Mowing \$40,018.00/\$64,317.00.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded  
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Award a contract to Sazama Construction in  
the amount of \$32,804.00 and issue a Notice to Proceed  
when all contract documents are in place.*

4. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Removal and Inspection of Well 6-02, Job #24-6201**

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck reported the District is in receipt of Progress Payment #2 from S.A. Camp, which includes inspection/evaluation of all equipment and appurtenances, as well as bailing of the well.

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded  
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Approve Progress Payment #2 in the total amount  
of \$8,712.00 less 5% retention of \$435.60 for a  
total payment of \$8,276.40.*

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

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Accounts Payable for October 2024**

Director of Finance, Sunny Kapoor presented the accounts payable report for October 2024.

*Upon Motion by Director Bravo, Seconded.  
By Director Niblett and Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Approve Expenditure for October 2024  
Bills When Funds are Available.*

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

Item was moved to after Consent.

**XII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

No items to discuss.

**XIII. ISSUES OF CONCERN**

**A. November 2024 Meeting Calendar**

Directors approved the November 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**

No items to report.

**F. Kern Non-Districted Land Authority Issues**

The General Manger provided a brief report on KNDLA issues.

**G. Attorney Report**

No items to report.

**XIV. 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, § 54956.9(d)(4)  
Conference with Legal Counsel  
Potential Litigation: 1 Case
3. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Government Code, § 54957  
Discipline/Dismissal/Release
4. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Government Code, § 54957  
Public Employment

Directors moved into Closed Session at 6:53 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 7:29 p.m.

President Jameson reported there was no action taken in Closed Session:

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

November 19, 2024

**Date Approved**



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

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