

WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Minutes - Board of Directors  
Thursday June 12, 2025

800 Kern Street  
Taft, California

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

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

*District Counsel:*        *Alex Dominguez - Absent*

*Recording Secretary:*    *Deann Crabtree*

*Staff in Attendance:*    *Tami Sivils, Adeana McDaniel-Furman,*  
                                      *Taylor Miller, Wendy Adams -Rosenberger, Mike*  
                                      *Law, Zak Crabb, John Stuntebeck,*  
                                      *Rosa Rodriguez, Andrea Crabb & Troy Turley*

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I.     FLAG SALUTE

II.    ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

President Scott Niblett called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Administrative Assistant, Deann Crabtree called roll and noted President Niblett, Vice President Bravo, Director Wells, Director Morris and Director Jameson as present.

III.   CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS

No conflicts were reported.

IV.    PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received.

V.     APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Upon Motion by Director Bravo, Seconded*  
*By Director Morris Carried Unanimously*  
*With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes*  
*To Approve the Agenda of the*  
*June 12, 2025 Special Board Meeting.*

VI.    ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Controller/Finance Administrator, Adeana McDaniel-Furman, started the Special Board meeting thanking various District staff for the hard work and effort it takes to put together the District's Annual Budget.

**1. DISCUSSION & APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING:  
2025/2026 BUDGET**

**A. Revenue**

Controller/Finance Administrator, Adeana McDaniel-Furman, presented the Preliminary 2025-2026 Budget, which included the attached power point presentation. Mrs. McDaniel-Furman stated the District anticipates revenue to increase by 2.14%, and operating expenses to decrease by 1.88 as compared to the 2024-2025 Budget.

Mrs. McDaniel-Furman explained the District's operating revenues less operating expenses will be \$4,113,321.00 prior to any of the District's Capital Expenditures.

She further explained revenue for Residential water sales could possibly decrease with additional water conservation. Industrial water sales revenue is expected to increase due to the recent water rate increase. Water demands of the Cogeneration Plants could also affect revenues into the coming fiscal year.

**B. Cash Flow**

Controller/Finance Administrator, Adeana McDaniel-Furman, reported the District has historically used a balanced budget approach in preparing the budget. However, the District did not use reserves in the last year to fund the District's Capital Expenditures and that leaves the District with an increase in reserves of \$19,533,690.00.

**C. Labor**

Adeana McDaniel-Furman, stated the District currently has 39 employees. She noted salaries and benefits as a percentage of the total operating budget decreased by 1% from last year. The total salaries and benefits for this 2025-2026 budget is \$6,061,095.00.

The Board and staff then reviewed the Engineering, T&D, Field Services, Accounting and Administration Departments' budget numbers.

**D. Expenses**

Mrs. McDaniel-Furman, explained total District operating expenses will decrease from \$21,604,907.00 for 2024-2025 to \$21,199,179.00 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

**E. Capital Improvements**

After discussion and review of the various Capital Expenditure options, the Board directed Staff to fund all requested Capital Expense projects in the amount of \$3,142,039.00.

## **F. Equipment Procurement**

Controller/Finance Administrator, Adeana McDaniel-Furman, noted future headwinds could potentially affect the budgetary numbers during the next fiscal year. Increasing prices in water purchases, gasoline, commodities and natural gas and electricity, Insurance, P&L, WC, and Health Benefits could substantially affect the proposed expenses. Also, Urban Water Management Plan, the State Water Project, water sales, water marketing, substantial cost of the Delta Conveyance Facility and future groundwater regulations could be variable factors that could also influence the proposed budget as going forward.

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:**  
**(a) Approve final draft amendments to Groundwater Sustainability Plan and supporting appendix of projects and management actions for the Groundwater Sustainability Agency, (b) Authorize their submission by the Kern County Subbasin Point of Contact to the State Water Resources Control Board before June 20th for review by SWRCB staff, and (c) Authorize their release for public review and comment**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported in March 2023, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) issued a determination that the Groundwater Sustainability Plans, submitted by the Kern Subbasin in July 2022 (2022 GSPs), were inadequate. As a result, primary jurisdiction over the Kern Subbasin shifted to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board). Based on feedback and a preliminary review of the 2022 GSP by State Board Staff, the Kern Subbasin submitted revised draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans in May 2024 (2024 draft GSPs) to the State Water Resources Control Board. On July 25, 2024, the State Board released a draft Staff Report that focused on State Board Staff's review of 2022 GSPs. The Staff Report provided only a brief discussion related to its review of the 2024 draft GSP. Based on their review of both the 2022 and 2024 draft GSPs, State Board Staff recommended that the Kern Subbasin be placed on probation. In December 2024 submitted a final 2024 GSP to the SWRCB. At the probationary hearing on February 20, 2025, the State Board acknowledged the considerable progress and improvements the subbasin had made in the final 2024 GSP and resolved to continue the hearing until September 17, 2025, and allow the subbasin to continue refinements to the GSP and submit a revised draft (2025 GSP) to the State Board by June 20, 2025. Since the February hearing, local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Kern Subbasin have, among other things, engaged in policy discussions with State Board members, meet with State Board staff on a regular basis to discuss technical issues, and prepared a draft GSP (2025 GSP) to address state Board staff's comments and concerns. The draft 2025 GSP will be submitted to the SWRCB by June 20, 2025.

The General Manager gave a presentation that discussed the various technical and policy changes that have been incorporated into the draft 2025 GSP.

*Upon Motion by Director Bravo, Seconded  
By Director Morris Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To (a) Approve final draft amendments to Groundwater  
Sustainability Plan and supporting appendix of projects and  
management actions for the Groundwater Sustainability  
Agency, (b) Authorize their submission by the Kern County  
Subbasin Point of Contact to the State Water Resources  
Control Board before June 20th for review by SWRCB staff, and  
(c) Authorize their release for public review and comment.*

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

June 24, 2025

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Date Approved

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

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