

WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes – Board of Directors
Tuesday, September 23, 2025

800 Kern Street
Taft, California

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

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

District Counsel: *Alex Dominguez*

Recording Secretary: *Tami Sivils*

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

President Scott Niblett called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Human Resource Administrator, Tami Sivils called roll and noted President Scott Niblett, Vice President Bo Bravo, Director Barry M. Jameson, Director David A. Wells and Director Gary J. Morris as 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 Jameson, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve the September 23, 2025
Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

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

A. August 26, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To approve the Minutes of the
August 26, 2025 Regular Board 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 August 2025**

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 & Project Report**

**vi. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Position Vacancies**

X. DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Consent Items i-vi of the
September 23, 2025 Regular Board Agenda.*

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 and various hydrology reports with the board, the General Manager also reported on the Delta Conveyance Project and Westlands subsidence.

B. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (Jameson, Bravo)

1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding: Adopt Resolution No. 25-06 Authorizing Investment of District Monies and Amending Resolution 05-03

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported on May 24, 2005, the Board adopted Resolution No.05-03 authorizing the deposit and withdrawal of District monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) and authorized certain District Officers to order the deposit and/or withdrawal of District monies in the fund. With recent retirements and reorganization of the finance department it is in the best interest of the District to revise the list of authorized District Officers. When adopted, Resolution 25-06 will amend Resolution 05-03 and authorize the following District Officers to order the deposit and/or withdrawal of monies in LAIF: Board of Directors, Secretary/General Manager, Controller/Finance Administrator.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
By a Roll Call Vote
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Adopt Resolution No. 25-06
Authorizing Investment of District Monies
and amending Resolution 05-03.*

2. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding: Amendment No. 3 to the Kern Subbasin Cost Sharing Agreement for Revising Groundwater Sustainability Plans

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported on December 15, 2023, the Kern Subbasin GSAs collectively entered into the Kern Subbasin Cost Sharing Agreement for Revising Groundwater Sustainability Plans ("Agreement") for a total cost of \$1,300,000 to pay for consultant services (Technical Working Group (TWG)) to revise the Basin GSP(s). The Kern Subbasin submitted a draft Amended GSP (2024 Plan) to the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) SGMA office on May 28, 2024, and despite extensive communication regarding

the revised Plan, Board staff issued a draft report with a recommendation for the Kern Subbasin's probationary hearing in February 2025. Additional effort by the TWG was required prior to the February 2025 hearing, therefore, \$642,000 was approved to finalize the 2024 Plan, meet with SWRCB Staff, and prepare for and participate in the probationary hearing. State Board recognized the significant improvements to the final 2024 Plan and continued the probationary hearing to September 17, 2025. An additional \$1,294,824.90 was approved for the TWG consultants to continue meeting with SWRCB staff and make further changes to the Basin GSP(s) prior to the September 17, 2025, hearing. Due to unforeseen delays in technical coordination with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff, the addition of new tasks and meetings, multiple rounds of QA/QC, fragmented drafting and review process, and compression of the production schedule, an additional \$275,000.00 is necessary for the TWG consultants and the Basin Plan Manager to finalize the GSP and participate in the September 17, 2025, hearing. The District's share of Amendment No.3 is \$12,500.00.

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded
By Director Jameson and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Authorize the General Manager to execute
Amendment No.3 to the Kern Subbasin Cost Sharing
Agreement for Revising Groundwater Sustainability Plans
for an amount not -to-exceed \$275,000 with the District's
share being \$12,500.00.*

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

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
District Public Access Improvements for Parking and Path of Travel, Job
#25-9000 - Contract with Vortex Construction**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported The District has identified the need to improve public access at the District Office for the parking area and pathways to the main entrance. To move the project forward, staff is recommending the use of Sourcewell, a government agency that runs competitive bid processes on behalf of public agencies. Sourcewell has already competitively bid and awarded construction contracts that meet California requirements. Under Government Code §6500, the District can use these contracts through a joint powers agreement instead of going through a separate bid process. In addition, under the District's Purchasing Policy (Rule III, Section 5), the Board may take formal action to dispense with the District's standard bidding process when it serves the public's best economic interests. This option reduces time and cost, while still meeting competitive bidding requirements. Vortex Construction, a Sourcewell approved contractor, will perform the work and will be required to enter into a District Public Works Contract. Vortex's proposal was prepared through Gordian, which manages Sourcewell's construction program (ezIQC). Sourcewell membership and Gordian's services are provided at no cost to the District.

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded
By Director Wells and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To A. To approve to dispense with the District's
standard bidding procedures under Rule III, Section
5 of District's Purchasing Policies and Procedures.*

B. To award a Public Works contract to Vortex, in the amount of \$74,554.81, for accessibility improvements to public access at the District Office and authorize a Notice to Proceed upon completion of all required contract documents.

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Well NW2 Rehabilitation, Job #26-6200**

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck on August 25, 2025, Well NW2's pumping equipment and appurtenances were removed for scheduled maintenance. A video survey was then completed and sent to Richard Slade & Associates (RSA) for review. RSA recommended chemical cleaning, but because the video quality was poor, they advised the well should first be brushed (mechanically cleaned) and then re-surveyed. The District requested South Valley (SVC) to perform brushing to the well casing. After reviewing the post-brushing video survey, RSA recommended additional rehabilitation steps, including airlifting, swabbing and chemical treatment. Staff has received a quote from RSA, through HerChem Tec, for the chemical supplies in the amount of \$51,560.00. A separate quote for chemical supplies and labor to perform these additional steps has also been requested from SVC. In addition, it was determined that NW2 will require column pipe, shafts, couplings and retainers. Staff requested SVC to include this cost within their quote.

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes*

To A. Approve Change Order #1 for additional chemical rehabilitation steps, column pipe, shafts, couplings and retainers in the amount of \$97,881.85 increasing the contract amount from \$38,500.00 to \$136,381.85.

B. Authorize Staff to purchase of chemicals in the amount of \$51,560.00 from HerChem.

3. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Electric Vehicle Charging Station Improvements,
Job #25-5000**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett and Mike Law reported before Electrical Power Systems (EPS) begins preparing plans and specifications for the EV charging station, staff requested an updated quote to include the cost of a solar structure and battery energy storage system to supply the EV charging station. The revised estimate reflects an increase of \$24,190.00, which accounts for additional expenses related to solar wiring, structural engineering for a solar carport/awning, and the battery system designs. Staff is also exploring the option of installing a solar system on the existing employee parking carport to help offset District Office power use. A structural engineer will review the as-built drawings to determine whether the existing structure can support the load of solar panels, and staff will keep the Board updated as this project progresses.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve a budget increase of \$24,190.00 to
Electrical Power Systems consulting agreement for
structural engineer and solar battery energy storage
system design, increasing the not to exceed contract
amount from \$18,560.00 to \$42,750.00.*

4. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
25 Hill Tank No. 2 Rehabilitation, Job #26-3200**

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck reported A Notice Inviting Bids for Scope A & Scope B was published in the Bakersfield Californian on Thursday, August 28, 2025. The request was posted to the West Kern Water District website, Kern County Builder's Exchange and emailed to pre-qualified contractors currently listed on the District Qualified Bidders List. A mandatory pre bid job walk was conducted for both scopes on Thursday, September 4, 2025. The following bids were received for Scope A - Coating Removal and Ultrasonic Thickness Testing (UTT) Preparation, which Includes interior coating removal, abrasive blasting, surface preparation, and related cleanup and disposal. The following companies bid Unified Field Services Corporation \$135,000.00, Advanced Industrial Services \$155,000.00, J. Colon Coatings, Inc. \$175,500.00 and Cal Sierra Construction 196,797.00 Staff has determined, for Scope A, the lowest responsive, responsible bidder is Unified Field Services Corporation. The following bids were received for Scope B - Concrete Slurry and Steel Floor Installation, which includes substrate preparation, concrete slurry placement, steel floor installation, and weld work. Company Bid amount Cal Sierra Construction (non-responsive) \$624,285.00, Unified Services Corporation \$868,318.00, Sunrise Mechanical Contractors - Declined , Bowen Engineering and SW Construction - Did not submit.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To approve award of a contract to Unified Field Services Corp.
for Scope A. in the amount of \$135,000.00 for (Scope's details) and
authorize a Notice to Proceed upon completion of
all required contract documents.*

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

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Accounts Payable for September 2025**

Controller/Finance Administrator, Adeana McDaniel-Furman presented the accounts payable report for September 2025.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded.
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Expenditure for September 2025
Bills When Funds are Available.*

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
District Audit 2024/2025**

Controller/Finance Administrator, Adeana McDaniel-Furman reported the District's Auditors of Barbich Hooper King Dill Hoffman would be at the District on October 13-14th to complete their field audit.

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

No items to discuss.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

No items to discuss.

XIII. ISSUES OF CONCERN

A. October 2025 Meeting Calendar

Directors approved the October 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: 3 Cases

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

- B. California Department of Water Resources v. All Persons Interested in The Matter of Authorization of Delta Conveyance Program Revenue Bonds;
Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 25CV000704
- C. Amaya v. City of Taft, et al.;
Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-24-103650

- 2. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Government Code, § 54956.9(d)(4)
Conference with Legal Counsel
Potential Litigation: 2 Cases

Directors moved into Closed Session at 5:59 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 6:14 p.m.

President Niblett reported no reportable action was taken in Closed Session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

October 28, 2025

Date Approved



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

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