

WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes – Board of Directors
Tuesday, February 24, 2026

800 Kern Street
Taft, California

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

Directors Absent *Barry M. Jameson*

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

District Counsel: *Alex Dominguez*

Recording Secretary: *Deann Crabtree*

Staff in Attendance: *Tami Sivils, Adeana McDaniel-Furman,*
 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. Administrative Assistant, Deann Crabtree called roll and noted President Scott Niblett, Vice President Bo Bravo, Director David A. Wells and Director Gary J. Morris as present and Director Barry M. Jameson as absent.

IV. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS

No conflicts to report.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve February 24, 2026
Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

President Scott Niblett moved the Finance Item #2 Audit Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to this portion of the agenda.

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Finance Item # 2 Audit Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Geoff King and Daniel Szewczyk of Barbich Hooper & King, Dill, Hoffman, presented the audit of the District's financial statement for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Mr. King reported the District's total revenues increased \$3.8 million or 16.54% during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. West Kern's expenses decreased by \$5.8 million or 23.82%. The District's total net position increased \$8.1 million or 6.64% over the course of the year's operations. Mr. King reported that over all the District has good financial management practices and is financially sound.

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded
By Director Wells and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Accept and File the Audit of the District's Financial Statements
2024/2025 prepared by Barbich Hooper & King, Dill, Hoffman,
Accountancy Corporation.*

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

A. January 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To approve the Minutes of the
January 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.*

B. February 3, 2026 Special Board Meeting

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To approve the Minutes of the
February 3, 2026 Special Board Meeting.*

VIII. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

IX. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- i. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Contract for a portion of Kern County Water Agency
Kern River Lower Rights and Obligations**
- ii. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Training Report**

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

- iii. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Operations Department Review**

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

- iv. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Cash Flow for January 2026**

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

- vi. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Safety Meeting & Project Report**

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

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

*Upon Motion by Director Bravo, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Consent Items i-vi of the
February 24, 2026 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 State Water allocations.

- 3. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
BV Replacement Water**

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger reported pursuant to the July 26, 2000, Amendment to 1983 Agreement with Buena Vista Water Storage District (BVWSD), West Kern can elect to divert up to the first 6,500 af of the District's SWP Supply from the California Aqueduct for use by the West Kern. The District must provide written notice to BV as to its intentions to either pay the replacement water fee or to deliver replacement water by March 1 of each year. If the District elects to purchase the replacement water they must pay BVWSD the replacement fee which is calculated by dividing the District's total KCWA SWP Table A Entitlement billings and based on DWR's April 1st SWP Table allocation. Upon receipt of the Replacement Water Fee, BVWSD will transfer 95% of 6500 af from their groundwater bank account to West Kern's groundwater bank account. The Board of Directors gave direction to send the letter of intent to purchase the replacement water.

4. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Golden Mussel Discovered at LA Paloma Water Pump Station**

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger reported that in January golden mussels were discovered on the traveling screen pump intake at WK3 turnout. During a routine dive inspection of the La Paloma raw water tank on February 6, mussels were also detected inside the tanks. They will provide updates as results become available. Kern County Water Agency has been coordinating response efforts with its member units, and a task force is currently being formed. West Kern Staff plan to participate as part of this task force.

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

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Resolution 26-02 Authorizing Investment Monies
Amending Resolution 25-06**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported Senate Bill 852 requires those public officials who manage public investments to file their Form 700s through the FPPC's electronic filing system. Legal Counsel suggests West Kern Waters Board of Directors delegate their authority to manage public investments to the Secretary/General Manager and the Controller/Finance Administrator and just have those two positions fall subject to this requirement.

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded
By Director Wells and Carried Unanimously
By a Roll Call Vote
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To adopt Resolution 26-02 Authorizing Investment Monies
Amending Resolution 25-06.*

**FACILITIES COMMITTEE
(Jameson, Niblett)**

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
North Well Field Mowing Project, Job #226-4600**

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck reported Mitigation Measure AG-1 of the NRRP Final Groundwater Banking Project Environmental Impact Report requires ongoing vegetation and weed control within recharge properties located at the North Well Field. Vegetation maintenance supports regulatory compliance, operational access, fire risk

reduction, and helps minimize impacts to neighboring farming properties. To meet these requirements, staff solicited bids for mowing and vegetation management services. On January 26, District staff emailed a Request for Proposals (RFP) to contractors on the District's Qualified Bidders List (5) and posted the RFP on Kern County Builders Exchange. A mandatory job walk was held on February 5, with three (3) contractors in attendance. The District received the following proposals :Ant's Tractor Mowing \$35,788.00, Sazama Construction \$42,883.00 and Eclipse Construction at \$129,815.17.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Award a contract to Ant's Tractor Mowing
in the amount of \$35,788.00 and Issue a Notice to
Proceed when all contract documents are in place.*

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

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck Curtis Skaggs, of Dee Jaspar & Associates (DJA), provided staff with the attached Technical Memo, outlining four (4) alternatives for Tank 2.

- **Alternative A** - Construct New 1 MG Tank

Estimated cost: ~1.78 million

This option was included at staff's request to evaluate multiple sizing scenarios. Based on current demand, redundancy needs, and contractual industrial entitlement obligations, a tank smaller than 1.5 MG is not considered feasible.

- **Alternative B** - Construct New 1.5 MG Tank (Staff Recommendation)

Estimated cost: ~1.97 million

This option replaces Tank 2 with the size based on current demand trends, redundancy during maintenance of Tank 15, emergency support capability, and entitlement obligations.

Benefits include:

- A new asset with full design life
- Long-term reliability
- Storage supported with current demand

If the District proceeds with new construction, environmental documentation and plans and specifications would be required for State operating permit approval.

- **Alternative C** - Construct New 2.3 MG Tank

Estimated cost: ~\$2.32 million (approximately \$400,000 more than the 1.5 MG option)

This option maintains the existing storage volume. Although the cost difference between the 1.5 MG and 2.3 MG options is relatively small, current demand trends do not justify replacing the full 2.3 MG capacity. The larger tank would present operational challenges in maintaining turnover and water quality.

- Alternative D - Rehabilitate Existing Tank (2.3 MG)

Estimated Cost: ~\$1.38 million (roof replacement covered by insurance)

This option includes floor replacement, new interior/exterior coating, and roof replacement. It restores the tank to service but retains the existing 1911 riveted shell and foundation, however, it does not address any additional repairs that may be required once the existing is removed. This would extend the life of the current structure rather than provide a new long-term asset. Staff contacted a qualified historic preservation professional regarding potential historic designation. Although the tank has attributes that may qualify as historic, funding opportunities for this type of structure are not available.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Alternative B (New 1.5 MG Tank) as the
preferred direction and authorize staff to proceed
with preliminary design and environmental review
and return to Board prior to any demolition or
construction approval.*

3. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Well NW5 Removal and Inspection, Job #26-6201

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck reported during the initial video inspection of NW5, a hole was identified in a louvered section of the casing. Additional cleaning and video inspection are being completed to determine the full extent of damage. Rehabilitation recommendations and pricing are pending. To avoid delays, staff is requesting authorization for the General Manager to approve necessary rehabilitation work, not to exceed \$200,000.00 with all costs brought back to the Board for ratification at the next meeting. The not to exceed amount is based on prior well rehabilitation projects of similar scope.

*Upon Motion by Director Bravo, Seconded
By Director Wells and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
Authorize the General Manager to approve a change
order for NW5 rehabilitation, not to exceed \$200,000.00
subject to Board ratification.*

D. FINANCE COMMITTEE
(Morris, Niblett)

1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Accounts Payable for February 2026

Controller/Finance Administrator, Adeana McDaniel-Furman presented the accounts payable report for February 2026.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded.
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Expenditure for February 2026
Bills When Funds are Available.*

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

No items to discuss.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

No items to discuss.

XIII. ISSUES OF CONCERN

A. March 2026 Meeting Calendar

Directors approved the March Calendar.

B. Potential Issues to be Addressed at Next Board Meeting

No items to report.

C. Board of Director Announcements or Reports

President Scott Niblett commended the Board Staff on the Districts Audit.

D. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported he met with CRC regarding a potential water reclamation facility project.

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: 4 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
- D. San Juan Water District, et. Al vs State Water Resources Control Board
Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 25WM000238

- 2. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Government Code, § 54956.9(d)(4)
Conference with Legal Counsel
Potential Litigation: 1Case
- 3. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Government Code, § 54957
Public Employee Appointment
Title: District Counsel
- 4. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Government Code, § 54957
Public Employee Appointment
Title: General Manager

Directors moved into Closed Session at 6:35 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

March 24, 2026

Date Approved



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

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