

WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes – Board of Directors
Tuesday, January 27, 2026

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: *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 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 public comment.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Legal Counsel Alex Domiguez reported an item that arose after the posting of the Agenda that requires attention in Closed Session:

1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
 Government Code, § 54957
 Public Employee Appointment
 Title: General Manager

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve the Revised January 27, 2026
Regular Board Meeting Agenda.*

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

A. December 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To approve the Minutes of the
December 16, 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:
Legislative Update for 2026**

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

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

**iv. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Cash Flow for December 2025**

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**

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
January 27, 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:
Golden Mussel Discovered at LA Paloma Water Pump Station**

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger reported that West Kern staff conducted an inspection on the traveling screen pump intake at WK3 turnout on January 15, 2026, and discovered golden mussels. Kern County Water Agency staff were notified and have been working on a control plan with the Department of Water Resources. The mussels have been found in other areas of Kern County including the CVC and downstream at Wheeler Ridge. La Paloma has been notified and an inspection of the La Paloma raw water tank will be conducted by the District next month.

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

**1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Kern Subbasin Cost Sharing Agreement 26-01**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported on December 9, 2025, the State Board submitted a letter returning the Kern Subbasin to DWR jurisdiction. While the 2025 GSP was deemed sufficient to warrant the return to DWR, there are a number of recommendations and improvements to the GSP that State Board provided to further meet the Kern Subbasin's sustainability goals under SGMA including, among other things; (1) a clear plan for effectively mitigating drinking water wells impacted by increasing concentrations of any constituent of concern with established minimum thresholds identified in the GSPs, including 1,2,3-TCP, attributed to groundwater management activities and; (2) that the GSAs reevaluate whether "ongoing standard basin operations that are consistent with operations taking place prior to 2015" are causing groundwater quality undesirable results as defined by SGMA and, if so, incorporate projects and management actions to avoid or mitigate those undesirable results.

Finally, the GSAs should ensure their groundwater management activities do not exacerbate groundwater quality issues associated with contaminants that exist in some zones of the aquifer system. GSAs will retain consultants to perform the work necessary to meet the requirement for returning to DWR oversight, prepare routine annual reports and provided subbasin support in 2026. The total cost of the consultant's work is estimated to be \$611,084.00 and will be split equally (1/22) by GSAs unless a new cost allocation method is adopted by the subbasin. The cost sharing agreement has been reviewed by the subbasin GSAs and is recommended for approval.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Authorize the General Manager to execute a Cost Sharing Agreement
Revising 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plans to meet requirements
for returning to Department of Water Resources oversight, prepare
routine annual reports and provided subbasin support in 2026 for an
amount not -to-exceed \$611,084.00 with the District's share being
\$27,777.00.*

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Resolution 26-01 West Kern Water District Rules
& Regulations Adopting Fees & Charges for Year 2026
And Rescinding Resolution 25-01**

Controller/Finance Administrator, Adeana McDaniel-Furman reported attached for review and adoption is Resolution 26-01 West Kern Water District Adopting Fees and Charges for Year 2026. Exhibit A shows the current and proposed charges and fees. If adopted revised charges will be effective February 1, 2026.

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded
By Director Wells and Carried Unanimously
By a Roll Call Vote
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To adopt Resolution 26-01 West Kern Water District Rules
& Regulations Adopting Fees & Charges for Year 2026
And Rescinding Resolution 25-01*

**FACILITIES COMMITTEE
(Jameson, Niblett)**

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

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck reported During routine preventative maintenance activities at Well NW5, District Staff observed excess sand production. To determine the cause and assess the condition of the well, pump removal and inspection services are required. This work represents the first phase of the evaluation process and will inform whether additional rehabilitation, replacement, or treatment measures are necessary. On January 6th, District Staff posted request for proposals (RFP) on the Kern County Builders Exchange website and emailed RFPs to Contractor's on our Qualified Bidder's List. The District received the following proposals: Western Oilfields Supply Company dba Rain for Rent \$27,194.07, S.A. Camp Pump & Drilling \$31,231.00, Bakersfield Well & Pump \$34,500.00,

South Valley Companies, Inc. \$42,500.00, Farm Pump & Irrigation Co. \$54,000.00, Lanye, a Granite Company \$56,200.00.

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded
By Director Jameson and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Award a contract to Western Oilfields Supply Company, dba Rain
for Rent in the amount of \$27,194.07 and issue a Notice to Proceed
when all contract documents are in place.*

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Station C Microgrid and Fleet Electrification Project
Notice of Exemption**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported a Notice of Exemption (NOE) is required under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the West Kern Fleet Electrification and Microgrid Project and to meet the environmental documentation requirements of the California Energy Commission (CEC) grant program. The grant requires CEQA compliance to be completed by February 2026. The project includes installation of solar PV carports, battery energy storage, electrical switchgear, microgrid controls, and electric vehicle charging equipment at the existing Station C Yard. All work will occur within an existing, developed District facility. Staff has determined the project is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, 15303, and 15311.

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Authorize Staff to file a Notice of Exemption
with the County Clerk.*

3. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Temporary Right of Entry Agreement –
Sierra Construction & Excavation Inc.**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported Sierra Construction & Excavation Inc. (SCEI) entered into a Temporary Right of Entry agreement in June 2025 to store materials, equipment, and vehicles on District property during a County project. Due to the County extending the project scope, Amendment No. 1 was executed on July 21, 2025, extending the term of the agreement to January 7, 2026, and adding an additional District property to the area approved for use. The County project has continued to experience changes and delays, and SCEI is now requesting a further extension of the agreement through February 27, 2026.

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Ratify Amendment No. 1 to the Temporary
Right of Entry Agreement with Sierra Construction &
Excavation Inc., which extended the term to January 7, 2026,
and added an additional District property, and approve Amendment
No. 2 extending the term through February 27, 2026.*

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

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck reported Staff is working with Curtis Skaggs, of Dee Jaspar & Associates (DJA), to evaluate the future of Tank 2 and determine whether it should be rehabilitated or replaced with a smaller tank. Tank 2 has been out of service (OOS) since spring 2025 due to wind damage to the roof. Based on recommendations from the January dive inspection report, staff completed follow-up evaluation of the floor, which confirmed it now requires full replacement. Since Tank 2 has been OOS, the system has continued to meet demand using Tank 15 and pumping, showing that Tank 2 is not required for normal day-to-day operations. However, staff still recommends maintaining storage at this site for redundancy, for maintenance outages, for rare emergency supply needs for Maricopa or Taft, and to support the District's contractual industrial entitlement obligations. DJA has been asked to provide estimates for two options: 1. Rehabilitate the existing tank by replacing the floor and repairing the roof while keeping the shell. 2. Replace Tank 2 with a smaller, appropriately-sized new tank. These options will be compared based on: Cost, Expected service life, Potential risks and long-term reliability, Once estimates and recommendations are complete, staff will return to the Board with a clear recommendation focused on long-term reliability and fiscal responsibility.

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

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

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

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded.
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Expenditure for January 2026
Bills When Funds are Available.*

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

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
KDG HR Employment Solutions Annual Services Agreement**

Human Resources Administrator, Tami Sivils reported the District has an established relationship with Jay Rosenlieb of Klein DeNatale Goldner (KDG) for employment counseling and consultation. Since the District will no longer have a Services Agreement with KDG for legal counsel, any services provided by Jay Rosenlieb would be on a billed rate basis with no discounts or provisions for representation in employment-related matters and the District will be continuing the relationship with KDG and Jay Roseinleib.

XII. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

No items to discuss.

XIII. ISSUES OF CONCERN

A. February 2026 Meeting Calendar

Directors approved the February 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

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported the Board of Directors and certain Staff would be required to take the following training courses under SB 827:

- * Ethic Training every two years - 2 hours
- * Fiscal & Financial Training every two years - 2 hours
- * Board Sexual Harassment Training every two years - 2 hours

E. Management Staff Report

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger reported that the District was informed that Midway Labs will not be recertified for drinking water testing. The District will be looking for alternatives.

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
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 6:25 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

February 24, 2026

Date Approved



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

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