

WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes – Board of Directors
Tuesday, March 24, 2026

800 Kern Street
Taft, California

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

Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve March 24, 2026
Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

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

A. February 24, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
Director Jameson Abstained
To approve the Minutes of the
February 24, 2026 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 February 2026**

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**

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

X. DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT AGENDA

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Consent Items i-vi of the
March 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, Golden Mussel Update and State Water allocations.

**3. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Letter Supporting Senate Bill 872, Establishing Delta Levees
And Canal Subsidence Fund**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported the Kern County Water Agency is requesting member unit support of Senate Bill 872, as amended which would establish the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund requiring the appropriation of \$150 million annually for a period of 20 years to the Department of Water Resources for the purposes of supporting capital improvements to restore the original design water conveyance capacity for state water conveyance systems impacted operationally by land subsidence, and an additional \$150 million annually for a period for 20 years for projects in the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta to improve existing levees.

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded
By Director Wells and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Authorize Staff to provide West Kern logo
and Signature to the Kern County Water Agency
Coalition Letter.*

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

**1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Approve Interim Charge to Non-District Landowners
For 2026 SGMA Related Costs**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported On June 28, 2016, the District adopted Resolution No. 16-03 electing to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) (WKGSA) and exercise the powers and authorities of a GSA granted by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) for the portion of its jurisdictional boundary overlying Kern Subbasin. In July 2019, Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) agreed to provide jurisdictional coverage to all lands in the Kern Subbasin, including those lands located outside a local agency's boundaries (a.k.a., "White Area Lands or non-district lands").

In September 2019, the District approved a non-district Landowner Agreement that provides for inclusion of non-district lands within WKGSA's Management Area. The Agreement provides a mechanism for the WKGSA to collect an Interim Charge to include non-district lands in WKGSA's jurisdiction. The Interim Charge covers costs to prepare GSP updates, Annual Reports and other SGMA related activities. Staff have reviewed costs for 2026 and calculated \$0.75 per enrolled acre Interim Charge. To simplify the accounting process, Staff will start billing annually instead of biennially.

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve the Interim Charge for Non-District
Landowners of \$0.75 per enrolled acre for 2026
SGMA related costs.*

FACILITIES COMMITTEE (Jameson, Niblett)

**1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Annual Tank Dive Inspection for Tanks #25, #32, #34 & #35
Job #26-3501**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported District tanks receive an exterior & interior inspection every 5 years. The tanks inspected for 2026 included Tank 25 (Station G, North), Tank 32 (La Paloma), Tank 34 (Telephone Hills, North) and Tank 35 (Station D, South); a summary of the following findings.

Routine dive inspections were completed on Tanks 25, 32, 34, and 35. All tanks are in full operational condition. Sediment was removed from all tanks prior to interior inspection. Tank 25 (Station G, North) has minor interior and exterior corrosion and minimal coating oxidation, which is typical and expected. The only note is installing a roof hatch gasket. Reinspect in five years.

Tank 32 (La Paloma) is the raw water tank, so it had heavier sediment, which is expected. It also has minor corrosion and minimal oxidation. Interior coating blistering is present but has not cracked open. Suspected golden mussels were observed. Recommend installing an overflow screen and continuing to monitor invasive species and coating blistering. Reinspect in five years.

Tank 34 (Telephone Hills, North) has minor interior and exterior corrosion and minimal oxidation. Blistering was observed around cleanout and manway areas, which may be caused by cathodic protection, and the center column coating is delaminating above the water line. Recommend recalibrating cathodic protection and continuing to monitor coating condition. Reinspect in five years.

Tank 35 (Station D, South) shows progressing coating blistering with some areas beginning to crack open, along with larger areas of exterior coating delamination. Recommend recalibrating cathodic protection and beginning planning for interior and exterior recoating within three to five years.

Summary: Tank 25 needs a roof-hatch gasket installed, and Tank 32 needs an overflow screen installed. All tanks remain operational and no immediate structural or operational action is required. Tank 35, begin planning for interior and exterior recoat within 3 to 5 years. All Tank bottoms were cleaned.

A separate set of diving equipment was used for Tank 32, La Paloma.

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

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck reported the District has received Progress Payment No. 1 from Rain for Rent for work completed on NW5. The invoice includes mobilization, pump removal and inspection, videos surveys, mechanical brushing and bailing.

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded.
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
Approve Rain for Rent's Progress Payment No. 1
in the amount of \$22,407.30, less 5% retention
of \$1,120.37, for total payment of \$21,286.93,
for pump removal and inspection, video inspections,
mechanical brushing, and bailing.*

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

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

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

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded.
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Expenditure for March 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. April 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

No items to report.

D. General Manager's Report

No items to report.

E. Management Staff Report

Controller/Finance Administrator, Adeana McDaniel-Furman discussed with the Board potential dates for the Budget Workshop in June.

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: 1 Case
3. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Government Code, § 54957.6
Agency Negotiator: General Manager
Unrepresented Position
4. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Government Code, § 54957
Public Employee Appointment
Title: General Manager

Directors moved into Closed Session at 5:40 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 6:00 p.m.

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

April 28, 2026

Date Approved



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

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