WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes – Board of Directors — **800 Kern Street**
Tuesday, May 26, 2026 — **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 Wells, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve May 26, 2026
Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

VII. DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 28, 2026 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 April 28, 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 May 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 Bravo, Seconded
By Director Jameson and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Consent Items i-vi of the
May 26, 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: West Kern's Pump-In Program

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger reported Kern Tulare has requested 2000 af of their previously stored water to be returned in June – July. In preparation of the return and updated version of the District's 2021 Pump-In Proposal was submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Kern County Water Agency pending approval. Weekly water samples are required at six locations during the first month of pump-in operations. Once consistent water quality has been established, sampling frequency will be reduced for the remainer of the pump-in operation.

4. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding: Golden Mussel Update

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger reported the County Board of Supervisors has declared a local emergency in response to golden mussels and will be sending a letter to the Governor Gavin Newsom urging him to declare a statewide emergency. The declaration would enable state and federal resources to be released to help address the invasive species.

The County requested the Kern County Water Agency compile cost estimates related to the local response to the golden mussels. The Agency asked each member unit to begin compiling expenses associated with staff time, consultants, treatment and infrastructure. Documentation of costs will be submitted for reimbursement. There is potential to get water user costs included in the reimbursement. La, Paloma, as the District's only downstream user, has spent $8,000.00 on a robotic inspection of their facilities.

Although golden mussels were discovered during a routine dive inspection and cleaning of the District's La Paloma raw water tank in February, the intent of this inspection was to determine coating conditions and any structural issues. The District has received an estimate of $6,550.00 for a robotic inspection to be performed on the raw water tank. This inspection will focus on the golden mussel infestation and will satisfy Fish & Wildlife reporting requirements. The District is waiting on proposal from Dudek to develop a mitigation plan to combat the golden mussel in raw water system.

5. **<u>Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:</u>**
<u>Urban Water Management Plan 2025 Update</u>

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger reported the Draft Urban Water Management Plan 2025 Update was emailed on 5/22/2026 to the required local entities and placed pm the District's website for the 30 day review period.

6. **<u>Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:</u>**
<u>Sanitary Survey of West Kern's Water System</u>

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger reported On May 21 and 27, 2025, the Sanitary Engineer with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Drinking Water (DDW), conducted a Sanitary Survey of West Kern Water District Water System. The survey is required every three years to evaluate the public water system's ability to provide safe and reliable drinking water. Key components of the report address water quality monitoring and reporting, source wells, treatment facilities, tanks and reservoirs, pumps and facilities, management and operations and operator certifications.

7. **<u>Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:</u>**
<u>Kern Fan Area Operations & Monitoring Report</u>

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger reported a Memorandum of Understanding was developed in 1995 between the Kern Water Bank (KWB) Authority's project participants and adjoining entities. As part of the MOU, the Kern Fan Monitoring Committee was established to oversee development and implementation of a monitoring program for the KWB and surrounding areas. Several banking projects have been developed since 1195 and agreed to participate in the monitoring program. The 2026 Report shows recharge/recovery activities, water evaluations, and water quality results in the Kern Fan area from January 1995-September 2024.

B. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
(Jameson, Bravo)

1. **<u>Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:</u>**
<u>Resolution 26-02 Requesting the Consolidation of</u>
<u>District Elections</u>

Legal Counsel, Alex Dominguez reported that West Kern Water District is a county water district formed pursuant to Division 12 of the California Water Code (Wat. Code, § 30000, et seq); and Government Code, section 61008. This requires Resolution 26-02 to consolidate the election of its board members with the Statewide general election. The purpose of this Resolution is to exercise that authority granted by California Government Code § 61008 that sets out the general election rules for districts, particularly community services districts, and outlines specific options for holding elections.

Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
By Roll Call Vote
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Resolution 26-02 Requesting the Consolidation of
District Elections.

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:**
Rule No. 16 H. Joint Use of Customer Owned Facilities

Operations Coordinator, Taylor Miller reported the District serves certain customers through privately owned pipelines where water is delivered at the transmission line through the first meter (Master Meter), and downstream credit meters are used to allocate usage. These arrangements are established through a Three-Way Agreement with the District, Water User (Master), and Service Connector (Credit), and have been in place for decades, with the oldest active agreement dating to 1959.

There are currently 24 Joint Use connections in the system. At 3 of the 24, the same customer holds both the Master Meter and a downstream Credit Meter. With the implementation of the monthly Minimum Charge (meter charge), these customers are now subject to duplicate Minimum Charges within the same service setup.

The current rule does not address how Minimum Charges apply in this situation. As a result, these cases may be perceived as duplicate billing for the same customer. Staff identified the following options for addressing this issue.

Option 1 – Master Meter Only
- Customer billed solely through the Master Meter
- Credit meter either retained for tracking only (non-billable) or removed
- Eliminates duplicate Minimum Charges

Consideration: This option reduces the District's ability to separately track individual usage from system loss.

Option 2 – Maintain Both Meters, Adjust Minimum Charge
- Customer retains both Master Meter and Credit Meter accounts
- Minimum Charge at the Master Meter may be waived in these limited cases

Consideration: This option maintains usage tracking and limits the adjustment to the Minimum Charge at the Master Meter.

Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded.
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Option 2 Maintaining Both Meters
and Adjust Minimum Charge.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE
(Jameson, Niblett)

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

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck reported on May 1, Well Rehabilitation Services (WRS) swabbed and tremied hydrogen peroxide into the casing perforation. After allowing the chemical to remain in the well approximately 72 hours. WRS performed an air burst to help push the chemical farther into the formation and agitate the gravel pack, with the intent of filling any voids that may have bridged. The first week of May, the crew brushed the well, ISO-packed the treated interval, and air-lifted the well to remove the chemically treated water.

Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded.
By Director Wells and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Progress Payment No. 3 in the amount of $101,560.78, less 5% retention of $5,078.04, for a Total Payment of $96,482.74, for rehabilitation and pump.

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

Operations Coordinator, Taylor Miller reported staff received preliminary reference drawings and electrical analysis memo for the Station C Yard EV Chargers, Solar, and Battery Energy Storage Systems. The preliminary concept includes: Eight dual-port EV chargers, with total charging capacity of approximately 153.6KW; A Solar photovoltaic system rated at approximately 180 kW AC/226.10 kW DC; and a battery energy storage system rated at approximately 630 kWh/180 kW. Based on the assumptions used in the analysis, the proposed battery system would have enough capacity to recharge up to ten F-150 Lightening Trucks per day, assuming average daily use of 110 miles per vehicle and reserving a portion of the battery capacity for operational life. Staff at this time is not recommending that the District move forward with the project. The project would remain for future consideration if the District receives a CEC grant award or of future fleet electrification requirements make the project necessary. If CEC funding is not awarded, staff would expect to purchase the project as needed to meet the District's required annual EV fleet purchases. The full electrical analysis memo is available upon request.

3. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:**
District Office Improvements, Job #26-9000

Operations/Engineering Administrator, Troy Turley reported the work for the District Office Improvements to the Office entrance, reception area, front counter and the Board Room double doors and windows. Inland Architects has submitted a proposal for At=architectural design services in the amount of $40,137.60.

Upon Motion by Director wells, Seconded.
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve A. A Contract For Services With Inland Architects in the Amount Of $35,520.00 For Final Design, Stamped and Signed Plans, and Specifications for District Office Improvements to the Entrance, Reception Area, Front Counter and Board Room Doors And Windows.

B. To Approve a 13% Contingency in the Amount of $4,617.60, to be Used Only For District Approved Additional Services, For A Total Authorized Budget of $40,137.60.

D. FINANCE COMMITTEE
(Morris, Niblett)

1. <u>Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding: Accounts Payable for May 2026</u>

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

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

E. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
(Wells, Morris)

No items to discuss.

XII. <u>INFORMATION ITEMS</u>

No items to discuss.

XIII. <u>ISSUES OF CONCERN</u>

A. <u>June 2026 Meeting Calendar</u>

Directors approved the June Calendar.

B. <u>Potential Issues to be Addressed at Next Board Meeting</u>

No items to report.

C. <u>Board of Director Announcements or Reports</u>

No items to report.

D. <u>General Manager's Report</u>

No items to report.

E. <u>Management Staff Report</u>

Human Resource Administrator, Tami Sivils notified the Board the District would be bringing a Resolution to the Board at the June regular meeting for an Amendment to Contract with the Board of

Administration of CalPERS. Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams Rosenberger invited the Board to the Chamber Mixer at West Kern Water on June 9, 2026.

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, § 54956.8
Conference with Real Property Negotiator
Description of Property: SWP Supplies / Facilities
Agency Negotiator: Greg A. Hammett, General Manager
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Participation

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

Directors moved into Closed Session at 5:50 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 6:10 p.m.

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

June 23, 2026
Date Approved

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

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