

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
North Kern Water Storage District  
Minutes of the Meeting of February 18, 2025

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of North Kern Water Storage District was in person - commencing at 7:00 a.m., on February 18, 2025.

President Andrew declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. The following Directors were present: Kevin Andrew, Joel Ackerknecht, Winn Glende, Kristen Camarena and Robert Holtermann. Others present: David Hampton (General Manager), Ram Venkatesan (Deputy General Manager) Marinelle Duarosan (Controller), Heather Williams (Operations Superintendent), Angel Ventura (Staff Engineer) of North Kern Water Storage District, Alan Doud, Scott Kuney, Brett Stroud and Mark Bateman (District Counsel - Young Wooldridge), Guests present: Sonia Lumus, Stephanie Hearn and Art Chianello.

President Andrew called the meeting to order at 7:03 am and opened the floor for Public Comments. At this time, there were none.

Board of Directors –

- (25-11) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Camarena and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from January 21, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None Abstain: None)
- (25-12) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Camarena and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from January 27, 2025, Special Board Meeting.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None Abstain: None)

Consent Calendar –

Consent Calendar included the following:

- A. District Groundwater Levels
  - B. District Exchange Balances
  - C. Operations Report
  - D. Approve Renewal of Standard Form District License Agreement, Level 3 Communications.
- (25-13) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Calendar.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None Abstain: None)

General Informational Items –

Watermaster Arthur Chianello reported that the most recent cloud seeding flight occurred on February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and the ground generators were activated. After the storms, the snow water equivalent increased by about 4.3 inches and the snow depth increased about 21 ½ inches. Mr. Chianello stated that the first snow survey was conducted and the April -July runoff is forecasted to be 75% of average. Watermaster Chianello gave a brief demonstration of snow sampler equipment to determine snow level measurements.

Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority/Kern Water Collaborative Update – No report at this time.

Financial Matters –

- (25-14) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of January as presented.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None Abstain: None)

- (RR25-15) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of January as presented.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None Abstain: None)

The Financial Statements, Summary of Water Sales and the Accounts Receivable reports for the month of January were reviewed and accepted as presented.

- (25-16) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the Accounts Payable balance for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of January as presented.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None Abstain: None)

- (RR25-17) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the Accounts Payable balance for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of January as presented.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None Abstain: None)

Consulting District Engineer – Ms. Hearn provided an update on the following:

Project Summary – Calloway Canal lining weed abatement was completed in January. Contractors re-shaped the canal, compacted soils, and prepared for pouring concrete for the canal section extending from 7<sup>th</sup> Standard to the pipe crossing. The 2018 and 2020 Drought Resiliency Projects are still pending the fabricated pipe to connect wells 88-25-013 and 88-00-098. Specialty Construction received the pipe on January 31 and is scheduling with GEI and North Kern to complete the work.

Status of Grants – In January, there were issues related to one of the executive orders signed by President Trump calling for a general freeze on funds from the Inflation Reduction Act Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act. Another executive order could potentially impact Reclamation funding authorized through the Unleashing American Energy Act. Funding agencies are directed to review their programs for consistency with Administration Policies and submit a report to the office of Management and Budget within 90 days. The understanding is that the most significant potential impact will be delays in reimbursements and possible interruptions with possible future/pending agreements.

IRWMP – IRWM funding is anticipated in this year's state budget. It will likely cover the 5-year Plan update. More updates are anticipated after DWR posts the requirements, sometime in the second quarter of this year.

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program/CV Salts – The Baseline Characterization Report was released in January. This is one in a series of studies in the Prioritization and Optimization Study, which is essentially a 10-year planning process for implementing the Salt Control Program. A few highlights are a comprehensive analysis of major salt sources across the Central Valley, the history of development, the regulatory measures in place, and the tools in place to assess the problem and explore potential solutions.

Budget & Personnel Committee –

Controller Duarosan presented the quote from ACWA JPIA for the liability and property insurance renewal policies. She indicated that the quote reflects potential savings of about \$52,000 as compared to current rates with JPRIMA and other independent carriers. In addition, Staff recommended that Cyber liability coverage be elected should the board approve to change carrier to ACWA JPIA.

- (25-18) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to approve Adopt Resolution No. 25-18 to join ACWA JPIA Liability and Property

Programs and proceed with changing carriers for the 2025/2026 Policy year, in addition to electing additional Cyber Liability coverage.

(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None Abstain: None)

Engineering Committee –

(25-19) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Camarena and unanimously carried, to Authorize the General Manager to execute Task Orders 25-03 with GEI Consultants for grant administration support for the 2024 WaterSMART Drought Response Program Grant Award, for a budget amount not-to-exceed \$35,000.

(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None Abstain: None)

(25-20) Upon motion of Director Camarena, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to Authorize the General Manager to execute Task Orders 25-04 with GEI Consultants for NEPA and grant administration support for the 2024 WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grant, for a budget amount not-to-exceed \$52,500.

(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None Abstain: None)

Groundwater Committee –

General Manager Hampton stated the State Board Staff report was provided January 21<sup>st</sup> and not what was expected after positive State Board Staff meetings. The report recommended probation, but the State Board Staff have separately commented that the Subbasin has made good progress and recommended the Subbasin to continue to stay together, remain coordinated, and continue working through the issues. The Subbasin submitted a comment letter on the Staff Report providing a technical response to their recommendations. The State Board Staff has issued two draft resolutions for the SWRCB Members to consider at the hearing, one recommending probation and the second recommending continuance. North Kern withdrew their hearing panel request along with some other GSA's. The Subbasin will continue to meet with State Board Staff and address their key concerns, which include the monitoring well network, high density domestic well clusters, well mitigation program and funding. Ms. Hearn commented that there appears to be basic fundamental differences in approach in that the State Board would prefer domestic wells to be addressed further and have representative wells for all beneficial users. The hearing set for February 20<sup>th</sup> is anticipated to decide either Probationary Status or a Continuing Resolution allowing more time to fine tune the revised GSP by June 20, 2025.

General Manager Hampton presented the Groundwater Well Meter Installation Incentive Program to encourage District landowners to install new meters in an effort to meet eventual regulatory requirements for groundwater management and monitoring. It is believed that wells equipped with meters have a vital role in responsibly and sustainably managing the District's water resources and ensuring all groundwater wells have proper meters is key for the District's long-term sustainability. Director Ackerknecht indicated that potentially the District could establish a reserve fund for future well meter assistance program for landowners.

(25-21) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Camarena and unanimously carried, to Approve the Groundwater Well Meter Installation Incentive Program and authorize District staff to develop a standard template form to streamline program implementation, for a budget not to exceed \$80,000."

(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None Abstain: None)

Produced Water Ad Hoc Committee – No report at this time.

Negotiating Committee – No report at this time.

Counsel of District – No report at this time.

Rosedale Ranch – No report at this time.

General Manager's Report –

- (25-22) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to Approve Resolution 25-22 Concurring in the Nomination of Melody McDonald to the Executive Committee of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority of San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None Abstain: None)
- (25-23) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to Approve Resolution 25-23 Concurring in the Nomination of Brent Hasteley to the Executive Committee of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority of Reclamation District 784.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None Abstain: None)
- (25-24) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to Approve Resolution 25-24 Concurring in the Nomination of Randall Reed to the Executive Committee of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority of Cucamonga Valley Water District.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None Abstain: None)

General Manager Hampton addressed the Board regarding the groundwater well 99-04-005. He stated that it is often vandalized and has cost the District financially. He indicated that after assessing the great results from the electrical security fencing at the Famoso Road wells by Amarok, Staff recommended establishing a similar security fencing for well 99-04-005. The Board agreed to move forward.

The President publicly stated that the legal authorities for holding Closed Session at today's Board Meeting are the following sections of the California Government Code:

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Govt. Code Section 54956.9(a) and (d)(1))
- (i) North Kern Water Storage District v. City of Bakersfield  
(VCSC #56-2011-00408712-CU-CO-VTA)
  - (ii) Appeal of Regional Board General Order (R5-2013-0120) for Tulare Lake Basin to State Water Resources Control Board (re. Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program)
  - (iii) State Water Resources Control Board, Administrative Hearing Office  
Adjudicative Hearing on Pending Applications 31673, 31674, 31675, 31676, 31677, and 31819
  - (iv) North Kern Water Storage District v. Rosedale Estates  
(BCV-24-101361)
  - (v) North Kern Water Storage District v. Crimson Resource Management  
(BCV-23-101912)
  - (vi) Bring Back the Kern et al. v. City of Bakersfield (Defendant/Respondent) and Buena Vista Water Storage District et al. (Real Parties in Interest)  
(BCV-22-1030220)
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: one case
- C. PERSONNEL MATTERS  
(Govt. Code Section 54957)

D. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS  
(Govt. Code Section 54956.8) – use of District and landowner facilities for various potential water management programs; negotiator, David Hampton

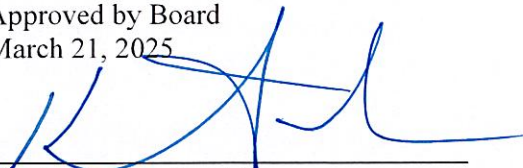
The above legal grounds were determined to exist based on advice of counsel, and discussion of such matters in an Open Session would cause prejudice to the District. The Board went into Closed Session at 8:30 a.m.

The Board reconvened back into open session at 10:29 a.m. There were no reportable actions.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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David Hampton, General Manager

Approved by Board  
March 21, 2025

  
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Kevin Andrew, President