

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
North Kern Water Storage District  
Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 16, 2025

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of North Kern Water Storage District was in person - commencing at 7:00 a.m., on April 16, 2025.

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

President Andrew called the meeting to order at 7:04 am and opened the floor for Public Comments.

At this time, Daniel Terran from the High-Speed Rail Authority introduced himself to the Board. He gave a brief overview of the recent meeting between the District and the Authority's CEO and confirmed the Authority's willingness to maintain the new 9-22 Canal crossing at its current location. Mr. Terran also expressed his interest in working collaboratively with the District to find a constructive path forward those results in a mutually beneficial resolution.

Board of Directors –

(25-36) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from March 21, 2025, Special Board Meeting.

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

Consent Calendar –

Consent Calendar included the following:

- A. District Groundwater Levels
- B. PG&E Monthly Analysis
- C. District Exchange Balances
- D. Operations Report
- E. License Agreement for Solar Cleaning Installations, Wright Field Solar LLC

(25-37) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Camarena and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Calendar.

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

General Informational Items –

Kern River Watermaster Mr. Chianello gave a brief update on the Kern River activities. He indicated that cloud seeding operation continues with a total of 10.4 flight hours since November, however, there has been less opportunities this year for cloud seeding conditions. The daily average inflow at Isabella Lake peaked at about 1487 acre-ft. The latest Bulletin 120 projection is 89% of average which considers the snow survey completed in March.

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

Kern Non-District Land Authority Alternate Appointment – General Manager Hampton

informed the board that a new alternate will need to be selected. Director Holtermann, who is currently the alternate, has a conflict of interest. The Board appointed General Manager Hampton to serve as the alternate.

Financial Matters –

(25-38) Upon motion of Director Camarena, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of March as presented.

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

(RR25-39) Upon motion of Director Camarena, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of March as presented.

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

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

(25-40) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, 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 March as presented.

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

(RR25-41) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, 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 March as presented.

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

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

Project Summary – Calloway Canal lining project from Snow Road to 7th Standard Road has been completed and Specialty Construction's work on the 2018/2020 DRP project is anticipated to be fully completed by the end of April.

Status of Grants – Mrs. Hearn reported that the FEMA BRIC Program has been discontinued and is no longer available for the RRID groundwater recharge Project. However, there are grant opportunities available such as RRID's recharge projects that are good candidates under other grant programs.

Budget & Personnel Committee –

After a brief discussion of the current hydrologic water conditions, District staff recommended to maintain the current water toll rate of \$200.00/AF. This rate could potentially provide an additional \$1.5 million to the Rate Stabilization Reserve the Board concurred with Staff's recommendation.

2024 Financial Audit –

(25-42) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to Authorize engagement of Barbich, Hooper, King, Dill Hoffman to audit the December 31, 2024, financial statements of North Kern Water Storage District (including Rosedale Ranch Improvement District) as per engagement letter dated April 8, 2025.

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

The Board requested agenda item 6C – Consider District Employee Compensation, be taken up after the closed session performance review.

Engineering Committee – No Report at this time.

Groundwater Committee –

General Manager Hampton gave a brief update on the GSP Amendment. He indicated that they are making good progress with Staff but working on a tight schedule has its challenges. The deadline for the updated GSP's is June 20. Mrs. Hearn provided an update on the process noting that the State Board staff has the tendency to require more than necessary as they are identifying additional items to be addressed. Mrs. Hearn reported that the Basin has a good implementation plan and that most deficiencies have been resolved. The Subbasin is continuing to provide additional outreach events with the various local communities.

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 – No report at this time.

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 8:20 a.m. General Manager David Hampton left the room for discussion of item C. Director Holtermann left before the end of the closed session and did not return.

The Board reconvened back into the open session at 10:24 a.m. The following are the reportable actions:

Calloway Lining Project:

- (25-43) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to authorize the General Manager to execute the Change Order to Bosco Constructors Inc. for Concrete Lining the Calloway Canal Lining not to exceed \$269,904.18.


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

The Budget and Personnel Committee discussed the General Manager's annual performance and recommended a salary increase.

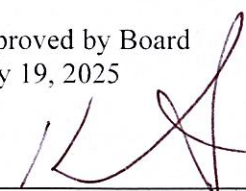
- (25-44) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Camarena and unanimously carried, to accept General Manager's performance evaluation and approve the recommended salary increase effective the start of the first following pay period.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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David Hampton, General Manager

Approved by Board  
May 19, 2025

  
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Kevin Andrew, President