

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
North Kern Water Storage District  
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 17, 2025

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of North Kern Water Storage District was in person - commencing at 7:01 a.m., on June 17, 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 and Robert Holtermann. Others present: David Hampton (General Manager), Ram Venkatesan (Deputy General Manager) Marinelle Duarosan (Controller), Heather Williams (Operations Superintendent) and Christy Castaneda (Administrative Assistant) of North Kern Water Storage District, Scott Kuney, Alan Doud, Brett Stroud and Mark Bateman (District Counsel - Young Wooldridge). Guests present: Stephanie Hearn, Art Chianello, Monte Mitchell, Sonia Lemus, Michael Boccadero and John Gaugel.

President Andrew called the meeting to order at 7:01 am and opened the floor for Public Comments. At this time, there were none.

Board of Directors –

(25-52) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from May 19, 2025, Special Board Meeting.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Holtermann & Glende; Noes: None, Absent: None; 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. Approve Renewal of Standard Form District License Agreement Southern California Gas Company
- F. Approve Issuance of the Standard Form District License Agreement to Lennar Homes of California

(25-53) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Calendar.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Holtermann & Glende; Noes: None, Absent: None; Abstain: None)

General Informational Items –

Watermaster Chianello gave a brief update on the 2025 Kern Water Control Manual revisions and Kern River activities. Mr. Chianello believes that the updates to the Water Manual incorporates and reflects the Kern River Interests change requests and provides flexibility for future water operations. The Manual is anticipated to be adopted by the end of the year. The inflow at Isabella Lake is at about 1,977 CFS and the outflow is 1,384 CFS. The latest Bulletin 120 projection is 80% of average.

At this time, Michael Bocado of the Agricultural Energy Consumers Association (AECA) addressed the Board and provided a presentation on energy average and increasing rates, legislative activities, and other AECA activities. He stated that AECA has increased their public affairs and lobbying activities to raise awareness in Sacramento of the high-cost impacts to Consumers and the increasing costs of energy. He noted that there exists an affordability crisis in California and that AECA is highlighting this through their efforts.

Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority/Kern Water Collaborative Update –  
General Manger Hampton provided an update and advised the District to consider the collaborative management approach to address the CV Salt nitrate issue through the Voluntary Contribution Agreement, which provides for cost sharing of costs to comply with current regulation requirements. The 2025 Budget is estimated at \$922,000 and cost sharing is based on rate structures across various industries. North Kern’s cost share for 2025 is estimated at \$5,500 and would be split with CRC.

Financial Matters –

(25-54) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer’s Report for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of May as presented.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Holtermann & Glende: Noes: None, Absent: None: Abstain: None)

(RR25-55) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer’s Report for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of May as presented.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Holtermann & Glende: Noes: None, Absent: None: Abstain: None)

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

(25-56) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the Accounts Payable balance for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of May as presented.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Holtermann & Glende: Noes: None, Absent: None: Abstain: None)

(RR25-57) General Manager Hampton noted that the RRID Accounts Payable report needs to be revised as it contains a payment to Young Wooldridge that has been processed twice in error. The revised disbursement total should be \$4,955.15. Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the revised Accounts Payable balance for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of May as noted.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Holtermann & Glende: Noes: None, Absent: None: 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. The 2018 and 2020 Drought Resiliency Project is nearing completion and should be complete by the end of July.

Status of Grants – Mrs. Hearn reported that they are focusing on the State of California Prop 4 grant for potential grant opportunity and anticipate reviewing the Fund Expenditure Plan by DWR (to be released within the next 2-3 months) for further funding opportunities. DWR grants are expected to be awarded in late 2026. GEI is maintaining close contact with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation staff for future funding opportunities.

ILRP/CV Salts – Mrs. Hearn reported that we are at the 5-year milestone of the planning period for the Salt Control Program. Kern Water Collaborative (KWC) voted to offer nitrate testing and mitigation to domestic wells that exceed the nitrate

standards for the entire Kern Subbasin. With extended coverage, the entire Kern Subbasin is eligible for nitrate testing at no cost to the property owner, and replacement water will be provided to any property that exceeds the standard for nitrate.

Budget & Personnel Committee – No Report at this time.

Engineering Committee –

(25-58) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order 25-05 with GEI Consultants for providing Engineering Design and Bid Support services for the 2022 Drought Resiliency Grant for a budget amount not-to-exceed \$175,000.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Holtermann & Glende: Noes: None, Absent: None: Abstain: None)

(25-59) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to approve Canal Right of Way Exchange Agreement with V Lions Holdings, LLC, accept Grant of Underground Water Pipeline easement from V Lions Holdings, LLC to North Kern for R-1 Canal and approve Quitclaim of a portion of the existing canal easement for the R-1 Canal from North Kern to V Lions Holdings, LLC.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Holtermann & Glende: Noes: None, Absent: None: Abstain: None)

Groundwater Committee –

General Manager Hampton provided an update on the amended draft of the GSA Plan and related appendix documents noting that outreach and engagement plan and activity documentation have been included. He stated that once the Plan has been posted by the State Board, a 45-day comment period begins. The Public Hearing with the State Board is scheduled for September 17, 2025.

(25-60) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to approve Final Draft Amended Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Final Draft 2025 GSP), supporting appendices and documents, and authorize submittal to State Water Resources Control Board by no later than June 20, 2025 and release for public review and comment.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Holtermann & Glende: Noes: None, Absent: None: Abstain: None)

Mr. Hampton gave a brief update on a scope of work proposal for analysis of Evapotranspiration (ET), precipitation, crop type, and permanent crop age at the field level with an expenditure cap on cropped acreage, with a maximum annual escalator of 3%. After Kern Subbasin discussions and comments, Land IQ reevaluated the process and recommended a \$0.79/acre and \$0.20/acre cost split. There was a recommendation to move closer to a 90/10 split. However, the Board directed staff to maintain an 80/20 split.

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 – Mr. Hampton informed the Board that the District received a letter of resignation from Director Camarena and that the District would proceed with posting a Notice of

Vacancy for Division 3. In addition, Monte Mitchel from Wonderful Orchards was present at the meeting and was recommended as a potential replacement for Kristen Camarena. The Board directed staff and legal counsel to provide the necessary notice of vacancy to the Kern County Registrar of Voters.

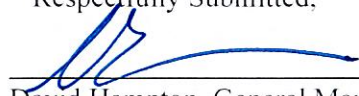
The President publicly stated that the legal authorities for holding Closed Session at today's Board Meeting are the following sections of the California Government Code:

- 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) State Water Resources Control Board, Administrative Hearing Office  
Adjudicative Hearing on Pending Applications 31673, 31674, 31675, 31676,  
31677, and 31819
  - (iii) North Kern Water Storage District v. Rosedale Estates  
(BCV-24-101361)
  - (iv) 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

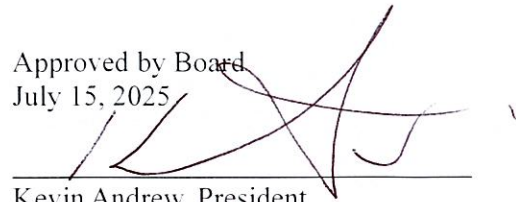
The above legal grounds were determined to exist based on advice of counsel, and discussion of such matters in an Open Session would cause prejudice to the District. The Board went into Closed Session at 9:05 a.m.

The Board reconvened back into the open session at 10:43 a.m. There were no reportable actions.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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David Hampton, General Manager

Approved by Board  
July 15, 2025

  
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Kevin Andrew, President